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The Belize Times

Established 1957

13 APRIL 2025 | ISSUE NO: 5450

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GOB TAKES LEAD

Ready to navigate uncertain global waters

"And each time, we have done so through partnership—between Government and the private sector, between policymakers and producers, between diplomats and industry leaders...Belize's future lies in our ability to adapt, to collaborate, and to safeguard the gains we have worked so hard to build. In the face of shifting global dynamics, we must be agile. We must be strategic. And we must, above all, stand together." **– Hon. Francis Fonseca, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade message to Private Sector on the US Tariff issue**

BDF's New Kitchen | Sustainable Fishing
New Building Codes | PACT-Belize Fund MoU

■ Inside

DOING GOOD

Good Deeds Day

■ Pg. 7

MIDH'S WOMEN SPORTS DAY

■ Pg. 6

SUCCESSFUL JOB FAIRS

UB, SPTC & BCCI < 1000 Vacancies

■ Pg. 5

Faber: No Apologies

Pulls Promised Pay from Campaign Worker

■ Pg. 8

Hon. Patrick Faber · Follow
Statement Regarding Recent Allegations

It has come to my attention that a post is circulating, claiming I took back some materials that had been promised to a voter after my loss in Collet. Let me state clearly—there is some truth to this story, and I make no apology for it.

This was not just a regular voter. The individual in question was a trusted campaigner of mine who, during the campaign, acted in bad faith. It became

Autism Awareness & Acceptance Month: Kindness in Action

GOB STANDS READY ON US TARIFF POLICY

Reassessing Market Strategy, Strengthen Competitiveness and Diversifying Export Destination

"If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs…If you can wait and not be tired by waiting…If you can think - and not make thoughts your aim… If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you… Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it ." Those words embedded in Rudyard Kipling's poem speak volumes about the present economic headwinds that are being experienced globally. For context, Warren Buffet in his 2017 letter to Berkshire Hathaway used the lines from Kipling's poem to illustrate the importance of staying calm and focused during market volatility. Focused on long-term goals and not be swayed by short-term fluctuations.

This is exactly what the words of Belize's Foreign Minister and Foreign Trade, Hon Francis Fonseca, meant when he said "Ladies and Gentlemen, this is not the first time Belize has had to navigate uncertain global waters. And each time we have done so through partnership - between government and the private sector, between policymakers and producers, between diplomats and industry leaders." The Foreign Minister, not in panic, not with haste, but with precision and measured steps engaged a cross-ministerial working group comprising officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Ministry of Economic Transformation and Central Bank to consider the implications

of the U.S. President Donald Trump's reciprocal tariffs. To date, there is no indication or suggestion by the John Briceño administration or the FM of retaliatory actions that are being considered by other nations.

Subsequently, on April 8, 2025, the government followed up with consultations with the private sector, involving micro-enterprises, major exporters and key industry associations to assess the 10% baseline tariff. FM Fonseca also gave assurance that the Embassy in Washington has been directed to engage the diplomatic channels with the United States Government at the highest level, "With a view to seeking clarification, exploring possible exemptions, and reaffirming Belize's long-standing and constructive engagement under the CBI." The Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), initiated circa 1983, has allowed many products from the Caribbean and Central America, including Belize, to enter the U.S. with no tariff. However, Fonseca alluded that the government does not have confirmation that the tariff will override existing preferences under the CBI.

Once again Belize will have to "navigate uncertain global waters". Economic history will show that Belize survived a double whammy, the Great Depression and the 1931 Hurricane with the Great Depression occurring through similar circumstances that are being witnessed by Trump's decision to rattle the rule-based economic system that allowed global economic development. The country has recovered from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Belize and its people have displayed insurmountable resilience in times of crisis. The previous mandate embedded in Plan-Belize, WE IN THE WORLD, has placed the country in a better position than most of the other Caribbean countries in the face of the incoming economic storm. The Government of Belize, the John Briceño administration and the cadre of economic transformation experts have fostered new avenues of co-operation to open new markets for Belizean products and investment.

Belize has entered discussions in the Middle East, Asia and Africa, while bridging the alliances to CARICOM, Central America and Mexico in the North bolstering regional trade and economic resilience. All in all, these can be considered strategic opportunities that could buffer the 10% tariff policy. Nonetheless, there are some uncertainties and challenges to which the Foreign Minister, Fonseca said "Let me state clearly and unequivocally: the Government of Belize is treating this matter with the gravity and urgency it demands. We are fully aware of what this measure could mean for our economy, our exporters, our investors, and indeed, our national development." Three areas of concern are export vulnerability, investment opportunity, and higher cost of imports.

Undoubtedly, the United States is considered Belize's largest trading partner and enjoys a considerable amount of trade surplus with the Jewel. The U.S. exported USD$633 million to Belize in contrast to Belize's exports to the U.S. of USD$86.2 million in 2023. Notably, Minister of State, Chris Coye, proffered that Belize enjoys a fixed quota on sugar exports to the U.S. which remains unchanged. Additionally, Belize's exports to the U.S. are primarily commodity products such as oil, sugar and molasses, which may be treated differently from manufactured products that other CARICOM countries export to the United States of America. Minister of State, Coye also suggested that if the tariffs are reciprocal, the taxes may be reduced. Thus creating an ease on the effects of cost of living. [writer's opinion]

After his address to Belize's leading stakeholders, FM Fonseca punctuated in his closing "Let me close by reaffirming that Belize's future lies in our ability to adapt, to collaborate, to safeguard the gains we have worked so hard to build. In the face of shifting dynamics, we must be agile. We must be strategic. And we must, above all, stand together." Aluta continua!

By Hilly Bennett

Government of Belize Responds to US Tariffs

Today, April 3, 2025, the Government of Belize convened a high-level meeting bringing together key ministers and senior government officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Transformation, and the Central Bank of Belize to consider the implications of the recently announced reciprocal tariffs by the United States.

To date, Belize's exports to the US generally benefit from duty-free access to the U.S. market under the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) in place since 1983. The imposition of a 10% tariff could have adverse effects on long-standing key export interests. However, **initial analysis suggests that the broad application of the 10% tariff on all U.S. trading partners may limit the potential harm from the tariff on Belize.**

Recognizing the potential impacts of the tariffs on trade relations and economic activity, the Government has engaged with the private sector to collaborate on effective risk management strategies in service of Belize's economic interests. The Government will leverage all available political and diplomatic channels—both bilaterally with the U.S. and regionally through CARICOM—to mitigate any adverse effects and identify opportunities in the evolving trade environment.

Belizeans can be assured that this matter is being handled with the utmost diligence at the highest levels of government. As details emerge, the Government will continue to closely monitor the situation while keeping the public informed, and safeguarding key sectors of this robust economy for the interest of Belizean livelihoods.

REMARKS BY HON. FRANCIS FONSECA

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Culture and Immigration

Private Sector Consultation on U.S. Reciprocal Tariffs

April 8, 2025

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished members of the business community, Good morning.

I. As you are now well aware, the U.S. Government has announced a 10% reciprocal tariff on all imported goods, a measure that—while described as universal in its application—raises new challenges for the global trade system and for countries like Belize that have long benefited from rules-based and preferential trading arrangements.

II. Let me state clearly and unequivocally: the Government of Belize is treating this matter with the gravity and urgency it demands. We are fully aware of what this measure could mean for our economy, our exporters, our investors, and indeed, our national development.

III. The United States remains our single largest trading partner, accounting for over 30 percent of Belize's total exports. Sectors such as sugar, citrus, seafood, and value-added agro-processed goods rely heavily on access to the U.S. market. And for many of our producers—large and small—duty-free access under the Caribbean Basin Initiative has been the foundation of competitiveness and sustainability.

IV. The announcement of this tariff, therefore, signals a turning point. It invites us to ask critical questions: How vulnerable are our exports? How resilient is our trade architecture? And how do we, as a nation, respond—not with panic, but with precision?

V. In response to the announcement, I immediately convened a cross-ministerial working group comprising officials from the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank, the Ministry of Economic Transformation, and our Directorate General for Foreign Trade. That group is actively reviewing the potential impact of this measure across sectors and formulating Belize's policy and diplomatic response.

VI. At the same time, our Embassy in Washington has been directed to engage the United States Government at the highest levels, with a view to seeking clarification, exploring possible exemptions, and reaffirming Belize's long-standing and constructive engagement under the CBI.

VII. We are also coordinating with our regional partners in CARICOM. Many of our sister states find themselves in a similar position, and it is in our collective interest to examine whether a common CARICOM approach should be advanced through our regional mechanisms.

VIII.But no response will be complete—nor credible—without the full engagement of the private sector. That is why today's consultation is so important.

IX. We are here not only to inform, but to listen. To learn directly from those who will be most immediately impacted. To hear what your buyers are saying, how your margins may be affected, and where the Government can be most helpful in mitigating risk and protecting jobs.

X. We also recognize that for some sectors, this moment presents an opportunity to reassess market strategy, strengthen competitiveness, and perhaps even diversify export destinations. Government stands ready to support that effort.

XI. Let me also offer this word of reassurance: While the 10% tariff will affect all countries equally, Belize's exposure may be less pronounced than some may fear. Our

Continued on page 5

The Belize Times

serving Belize since 1957 as the longest continuous newspaper.

Founder: Rt. Hon. George Cadle Price, People's United Party Leader Emeritus

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Printed and Published By
TIMES NEWSPAPER LTD.
Tel: 280-8385
#3 Queen Street
P.O. BOX 506
Belize City, Belize
Email: belizetimesadvertisement@yahoo.com

EDITORIAL

REGIONALIZATION TODAY

"A common future awaits us. Let us grasp it! Now! Today!" asserted Prime Minister John Briceño at the Fourth Summit of the Heads of State and Government of CARICOM and SICA on March 3, 2022, at San Pedro, Ambergris Caye. The summit was capped by the Joint Declaration of San Pedro—a 12-point document. The target in 2022 was the slowly waning COVID-19 pandemic, which bred the 6th point to 'Recognize the potential for deeper and wider regional trade and investment to stimulate economic growth and development'. Today, with the spectre of the United States misnomered 'Reciprocal Tariffs' imposed on the world, our subregions of an approximate total population of 60 million and a collective GDP of nearly 400 billion have a grave deliberation. Our CARICOM-Central American countries are part of over 100 countries with trade deficits with the USA, yet are still castigated with a new ten per cent tariff as of April 9, 2025. The tariff is, of course, a fee charged on imported products, in this case, to the USA. Upon the announcement of these tariffs, the economic and business world experienced critical uncertainty tremors intensified by Cat-5 level global recession fears. The closest to this was the announcement of the coronavirus pandemic on March 11, 2020. At the March 2022 San Pedro summit, the words of Prime Minister Briceño echoed clairvoyance when repeated today: the possibilities for intra-regional trade are clear, and the opportunities for cross-regional investments are evident since the global and regional landscapes have changed significantly. This partnership should be strategic as it must deliver more for the people of our shared neighborhoods.

The regions and Belize then faced similar challenges which threatened to retard development. These included human insecurity, climate change, and migration, and today, the US tariffs threaten thirty per cent of Belize's exports and portend another wave of sweeping inflation. Each country will have its margins, but our region's shared historical experience teaches us that geopolitical competition can divide and undermine our development. Prime Minister Briceño implored that this must not be allowed to happen. Together, the Caribbean and Central America can navigate a path grounded in our shared values that promote our peoples' common interests and operate strategically and independently on the world stage. He wanted all to understand that it was important for Central America to understand what "vulnerability" meant for the Caribbean and, likewise, for the Caribbean to understand the profound socio-economic impacts of climate change and natural disasters on Central American societies, which already suffer deep inequalities — those impacts have included profound citizen insecurity and unprecedented migration flows. It was 2022, yet the message is similar today: the longer we delay the effective activation of our partnership, the more likely it is that the region will miss valuable opportunities to fully realize our shared neighborhoods' development.

The tariffs brought a tectonic shift to economic, financial, and trade uncertainty that can surely be tackled with regionalization within a group that shares the Caribbean Sea. The USA bargains on the strength of its fifty states bound by a landmass, and so do the EU's twenty-seven countries and, similarly, Mexico's thirty-one 'estados'. Belize's history has given it the privilege to participate in the integration systems of CARICOM and SICA. Still, the PM's overtures in 2022 reverberate the urgency of greater cooperation. For context, the international background to the San Pedro summit was that Russia had just invaded Ukraine, and the COVID-19 pandemic was just on its second anniversary. Similarly, potentially critical, the USA's 'Reciprocal' Tariffs challenge the region. Are we prepared? All these global shocks required precise national-level actions, regional-level integration and international cooperation.

Belize is not accustomed to the financial world of stocks. Still, our farmers and exporters fear profit losses, disappearing markets and export losses. These novel US tariffs are the most recent hurdles placed before our enterprising people. The Briceño administration immediately assembled a team to dissect this new change to the world order. Now is a time to quell fear with economic facts while appealing to Belizeans' historically resilient entrepreneurial skills and spirits. For regionalization to have a chance of succeeding, there must be individual economic resiliency within all nations. Belize is pulling its economic weight under this planBelize 2.0 Briceño administration and is ready to be the hub between CARICOM and SICA. Point twelve of the Declaration of San Pedro asked that the summit be held again annually. In the words of PM Briceño, regionalization can succeed: "For sure, if we want it to be so."

EDITORIAL

en Español

LA REGIONALIZACIÓN HOY

«Nos espera un futuro común. ¡Agarrémoslo! ¡Ahora! ¡Hoy!», afirmó el primer ministro John Briceño en la IV Cumbre de Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno de CARICOM y SICA, celebrada el 3 de marzo de 2022 en San Pedro, Cayo Ambergris. La cumbre culminó con la Declaración Conjunta de San Pedro, un documento de 12 puntos. El objetivo en 2022 era la pandemia de COVID-19, que se estaba extinguiendo lentamente, lo que dio lugar al sexto punto: «Reconocer el potencial de un comercio y una inversión regionales más profundos y amplios para estimular el crecimiento económico y el desarrollo». Hoy, con el espectro de los mal llamados «aranceles recíprocos» impuestos por Estados Unidos en el mundo, nuestras subregiones de una población total aproximada de 60 millones y un PIB colectivo de casi 400.000 millones tienen una grave deliberación. Nuestros países de CARICOM-América Central forman parte de los más de 100 países con déficit comercial con EE.UU., y aún así son castigados con un nuevo arancel del diez por ciento a partir del 9 de abril de 2025. El arancel es, por supuesto, una tasa que se aplica a los productos importados, en este caso, a EE UU. Tras el anuncio de estos aranceles, el mundo económico y empresarial experimentó temblores críticos de incertidumbre intensificados por temores de recesión mundial de nivel Cat-5. Lo más parecido a esto fue el anuncio de la pandemia de coronavirus el 11 de marzo de 2020. En la cumbre de San Pedro de marzo de 2022, las palabras del primer ministro Briceño resuenan clarividentes cuando se repiten hoy: las posibilidades para el comercio intrarregional son claras, y las oportunidades para las inversiones trans regionales son evidentes, ya que el panorama mundial y regional ha cambiado significativamente. Esta asociación debe ser estratégica, ya que debe aportar más a la población de nuestra vecindad común.

Las regiones y Belice se enfrentaban entonces a retos similares que amenazaban con retrasar el desarrollo. Entre ellos figuraban la inseguridad humana, el cambio climático y la migración, y hoy, los aranceles estadounidenses amenazan el treinta por ciento de las exportaciones de Belice y presagian otra oleada de inflación arrolladora. Cada país tendrá sus márgenes, pero la experiencia histórica compartida de nuestra región nos enseña que la competencia geo-política puede dividir y socavar nuestro desarrollo. El primer ministro Briceño imploró que no se permita que esto ocurra. Juntos, el Caribe y Centroamérica pueden recorrer un camino basado en nuestros valores compartidos que promueva los intereses comunes de nuestros pueblos y operar de forma estratégica e independiente en la escena mundial. Quiso que todos comprendieran que es importante que Centroamérica entienda lo que significa la «vulnerabilidad» para el Caribe y, del mismo modo que el Caribe comprenda los profundos impactos socioeconómicos del cambio climático y los desastres naturales en las sociedades centroamericanas que ya sufren profundas desigualdades; esos impactos han incluido una profunda inseguridad ciudadana y flujos migratorios sin precedentes. Era 2022, pero el mensaje es similar hoy: cuanto más retrasemos la activación efectiva de nuestra asociación, más probable será que la región pierda valiosas oportunidades de realizar plenamente el desarrollo de nuestra vecindad compartida.

Los aranceles supusieron un cambio tectónico en la incertidumbre económica, financiera y comercial que sin duda puede afrontarse con la regionalización dentro de un grupo que comparte el Mar Caribe. EE.UU. negocia con la fuerza de sus cincuenta estados unidos por una masa continental, y lo mismo hacen los veintisiete países de la UE y, del mismo modo, los treinta y un «estados» de México. La historia de Belice le ha dado el privilegio de participar en los sistemas de integración de CARICOM y SICA. Así, las propuestas del primer ministro en 2022 hacen eco de la urgencia de una mayor cooperación. Para contextualizar, el trasfondo internacional de la cumbre de San Pedro fue que Rusia acababa de invadir Ucrania, y la pandemia COVID-19 estaba justo en su segundo aniversario. De forma similar, y potencialmente crítica, los aranceles «recíprocos» de EE.UU. desafían a la región. ¿Estamos preparados? Todas estas conmociones mundiales exigieron acciones precisas a nivel nacional, integración a nivel regional y cooperación internacional.

Belice no está acostumbrado al mundo financiero de las acciones. Aun así, nuestros agricultores y exportadores temen pérdidas de beneficios, desaparición de mercados y pérdidas de exportaciones. Estos novedosos aranceles estadounidenses son los obstáculos más recientes que se han puesto a nuestros emprendedores. El gobierno de Briceño armó de inmediato un equipo para diseccionar este nuevo cambio en el orden mundial. Ahora es el momento de calmar el miedo con hechos económicos, al tiempo que se apela a las habilidades y el espíritu emprendedor de los beliceños, históricamente resistentes. Para que la regionalización tenga posibilidades de éxito, debe haber capacidad de recuperación económica individual en todas las naciones. Belice está tirando de su peso económico bajo esta administración del planBelice 2.0 de Briceño y está preparada para ser el eje entre CARICOM y SICA. El punto doce de la Declaración de San Pedro pedía que la cumbre volviera a celebrarse anualmente. En palabras del PM Briceño, la regionalización puede tener éxito: «Seguro, si queremos que así sea».

JOB FAIRS SIGNAL THRIVING ECONOMY

The BCCI Hosts Successful 3rd Annual Link Up Job Fair

April 5th, 2025 – The Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI) congratulates all employers, sponsors, partners, and job seekers for their participation in the 3rd Annual BCCI Link Up Job Fair. This initiative was introduced 2 years ago as an avenue for business owners, executives, and other stakeholders to build meaningful relationships with qualified and talented individuals who possess the skills needed to make positive contributions to the country's workforce.

Belize has seen fluctuating unemployment rates in recent years, with economic challenges stemming from global uncertainties and local market shifts. While the government and private sector have worked to create job opportunities, employers still report a shortage of workers; many Belizeans however, also report facing difficulties in finding employment. The BCCI's Link Up Job Fair plays a crucial role in bridging this gap, by connecting job seekers with potential employers, fostering economic growth, and reducing unemployment and underemployment.

This year, the job fair boasted an increase in participation by businesses with a cumulative number of over 1000 vacancies and welcomed approximately 1500 visitors, providing industries access to the talent they need, while empowering individuals with meaningful job opportunities. The overwhelmingly positive feedback year after year from both attendees and employers, reaffirms the value of this event.

By fostering a dynamic space for networking and career growth, we continue to support both our members and the wider public in their professional journeys. As we look ahead to expanding and enhancing this initiative, the BCCI extends our sincere gratitude to everyone who participated and looks forward to hosting many more successful job fairs in the near future. (release)

San Pedro Town Council Job Fair

April 5 – The SPTC at Central Park was out on Saturday offering 3pm to connect San Pedranos with local job opportunities. They invited the public to "Stop by and chat with our Managers about available positions!"

Serious job seekers were required to bring their Social Security card and Resumé. The Town council was playing a direct role in fomenting growth for the good of the island and by extension Belize.

The vacancies available were for Housekeeper, Houseman, Butler, Bartender, Night Auditor, Front Desk, Security, Waiter, Maintenance, Carpenter, Traffic Wardens, Sanitation, Mechanic, Street Cleaners, and Beach Cleaners.

University of Belize Job Fair

Not to be left behind, the UB had its own job fair which was of course geared to their graduating students. It has to be noted that the usual rhetoric of many graduates and no job is a thing of the past. Presently, jobs are available as the job fairs will attest to and additionally there is competition for certain level of employees. Job seekers can pick and choose in this planBelize 2.0 economy.

Employers available at UB's fair were Acquity BPO Limited, The Office Gurus Belize, BELTRAIDE, Smart-Belize, The Santander Sugar Group, Belize Tropic Air, Belize Silk Grass Farms, Financial Services Commission, Belize Sugar Industries, Institute of Archaeology (NICH), Belize Cubola Publisher, Belize Water Services and others.

Labour Department at UB

April 9 – The Labour Department participated in the University of Belize's Job Fair at the Belmopan Campus, engaging with students and job seekers on important topics related to the world of work. Our officers provided information on workers' rights, employer responsibilities, and key aspects of Belize's labour laws while also promoting the department's essential services and role within the labour market.

DFC is at the UB Job Fair!

Visit DFC's booth at the University of Belize's Job Fair at the Belmopan Campus. We're connecting with students and alumni about exciting career opportunities at DFC.

Whether you're looking to start your professional journey or take the next step in your career, our team is here to share how you can grow with us.

Come learn more about our impactful work and how you can be a part of it!

BELTRAIDE's Virtual Job Fair

Earlier on March, those looking for an exciting career opportunity could do so virtuall. BELTRAIDE in collaboration with the Central Executing Unit, Ministry of Finance presented a Virtual Job Fair on March 27, 2025.

Attendees were invited to explore the following open positions: Investment Promotion Associate, Digital Communication Officer, Digital Inclusion Technical Coordinator, Supplier Development, Program Coordinator.

Even the Terms of Reference (TOR) were online here: https://www.beltraide.bz/upcoming-career-opportunities.html

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Culture and Immigration Deepens Consultation on U.S. Tariff Policy

April 8, 2025 - The Government of Belize hosted a follow-up consultation with the private sector to assess the implications of the new 10% reciprocal tariff policy in the United States. Building on last week's high-level meeting at the Central Bank, the session brought together a wide cross-section of Belizean businesses—from micro-enterprises to major exporters—alongside key industry associations.

Led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Culture and Immigration, Hon. Francis Fonseca, and supported by the Minister of State for Foreign Trade, Hon. Marconi Leal, the discussion focused on the immediate and longer-term challenges the tariff poses for Belize's export sectors. Participants raised serious concerns about the rising costs given recent expansions in the US Market, trade disruptions, and competitiveness—particularly in the face of shipping uncertainties. While many businesses signaled a willingness to explore diversification, they also emphasized the urgent need for government support to reduce the cost of doing business at home.

In response, the Ministry reaffirmed its commitment to elevating these concerns to Cabinet. The Ministry also confirmed that Belize's Embassy in Washington has been tasked with engaging U.S. authorities at the highest levels—seeking clarification, exploring possible exemptions, and reaffirming Belize's long-standing partnership under the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI).

Speaking at the opening of the session, Hon. Francis Fonseca underscored the importance of unity and forward planning in navigating these uncertain times: *"Belize's future lies in our ability to adapt, to collaborate, and to safeguard the gains we have worked so hard to build. In the face of shifting global dynamics, we must be agile. We must be strategic. And we must, above all, stand together."* (release)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Culture and Immigration Dialogue with CARICOM on U.S. Tariff Policy

April 9, 2025 - The Government of Belize participated in a high-level CARICOM consultation with public and private sector representatives to address the implications of the recently announced 10% reciprocal tariff from the United States under its "America First" Trade Policy. The measure poses a serious threat to regional exports and undermines longstanding trade preferences granted under the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI).

Representing Belize, Director General of Foreign Trade Andy Sutherland outlined the immediate risks to more than US$45 million in national exports—particularly in the sugar, marine, and pepper sauce industries. He underscored that this policy shift affects not just trade statistics, but the livelihoods of thousands of Belizeans. Building on national consultations held with the private sector in Belmopan just one day prior, Belize put forward concrete proposals aimed at defending economic stability and fostering a unified regional response.

The Government confirmed that Belize's Embassy in Washington has been directed to engage with U.S. officials at the highest levels to seek clarification, advocate for exemptions, and reaffirm the country's commitment to rules-based trade under the CBI.

At today's meeting, Belize added momentum to the regional dialogue by formally advancing a proposal to establish a Regional Emergency Competitiveness Fund, to be administered through the Caribbean Development Bank and the respective National Development Banks across the region. This fund, as envisioned by Belize, would provide a line of low-cost credit to help MSMEs and other vulnerable sectors manage the transition triggered by the new U.S. policy. It would support productivity upgrades, logistics improvements, and market repositioning—especially for exporters suddenly facing increased costs and disrupted buyer relationships.

Belize also reiterated the importance of safeguarding the CARICOM Common External Tariff, accelerating the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, and pursuing market diversification as long-term strategies for resilience. Director General Sutherland noted early signs of a phased U.S. tariff rollout, underscoring a critical window for coordinated diplomatic engagement.

The Government assures the Belizean public that advocacy efforts are actively underway and will remain elevated as the strategy evolves. Belize stands ready to continue leading and contributing to regional efforts in defense of our shared economic interests. (release)

REMARKS BY HON. FRANCIS FONSECA

Continued from page 2

exports remain relatively small in global volume and, in many cases, serve niche markets. We do not yet have confirmation that the tariff will override existing preferences under the CBI, and that is a matter we will pursue with urgency and resolve.

XII. What is most essential at this juncture is that we remain focused, measured, and united.

XIII. Ladies and gentlemen, this is not the first time Belize has had to navigate uncertain global waters. And each time, we have done so through partnership—between Government and the private sector, between policymakers and producers, between diplomats and industry leaders.

XIV. That partnership must continue. It must be strengthened. And it must be rooted in mutual trust and a shared commitment to national progress.

XV. As we move forward, the Government will continue to provide timely updates and maintain open channels of communication. We will share the results of our ongoing assessments and convene follow-up engagements as necessary. Above all, we will ensure that your voices remain at the center of our national response.

XVI. Let me close by reaffirming that Belize's future lies in our ability to adapt, to collaborate, and to safeguard the gains we have worked so hard to build. In the face of shifting global dynamics, we must be agile. We must be strategic. And we must, above all, stand together.

Thank you for your time, your candor, and your continued partnership.

MIDH Sports Day 2025

Friday April 4 - Women from various government ministries and the Belmopan City Council today participated in the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing's annual Women's Month Sports Day.

The event featured friendly competitions and team-building activities, celebrating strength, unity, and the continued advancement of women in the workplace. It also offered a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the value of inclusion, wellness, and mutual support among colleagues.

On hand to offer a word of inspiration was Minister of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs, Thea Garcia Ramirez.

Positive Vibes for the Winners

The Women of the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Climate Change were riding the high from Friday, when the incredible women of their team claimed victory at the Female Sports Day organized by the MIDH. It was a fantastic finale to Women's Month 2025!

Their passion, teamwork, and determination led them straight to the top, and Belize couldn't be prouder. Please join us in showing some love and appreciation for their amazing achievement!

A big thank you to the new and esteemed CEO Milagro Matus for stopping by to cheer them on—your support means everything!

Here's to strong women, strong teams, and strong leadership!

NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER 6/2025

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue will be $83,200,000.00

The Bills will be issued in electronic form only evidenced by an electronic book entry in the Central Securities Depository (CSD) of the Central Bank of Belize in multiples of $200 and will be repayable at par 91 days after issue. They will be issued on Tuesday, 22 April 2025 and will be redeemed on Tuesday, 22 July 2025.

Each tender must be for $200 or a multiple of $200 and must specify to five decimal places the amount, which is offered for each one hundred dollars face value of the Bills sought.

Members of the public who wish to participate in the auction must submit their bid to the Central Bank of Belize electronically to bids@centralbank.org.bz or at the designated drop off box no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 11 April 2025.

The Auction in the Central Securities Depository System (CSD) will be opened from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Tuesday 22 April 2025.

Successful bidders should arrange to settle via the Automated Payment & Securities Settlement System of Belize (APSSS).

Bank: Central Bank of Belize
Account: GLICORP0402627

The Government of Belize reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all tenders in whole or in part.

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

Notices are placed on Central Bank of Belize Website (www.centralbank.org.bz)

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES

Loma Luz Boulevard, Santa Elena, Cayo District.

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Atlantic Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties. Sales currently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties are sold.

1. Parcel No. 1173 off Loma Luz Boulevard, Santa Elena, Cayo District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Santa Elena/Cayo	23	1173
The freehold property of Mr. Gianni Jerald Castillo.		

2. Parcel No. 1174 Loma Luz Boulevard, Santa Elena, Cayo District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Santa Elena/Cayo	23	1174
The freehold property of Ms. Ronda Mae Castillo.		

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE 223-4488
Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com
Facebook: Belize Auction

DOING GOOD

On GOOD DEEDS DAY 2025 – April 6

"Thank You for Making Good Deeds Day 2025 Impactful! - Special Envoy HE Rossana Briceño:

"We were truly inspired by the many acts of kindness, whether it was caring for the environment, lending a helping hand to the elderly, or supporting those in need. Your compassion and generosity made a real difference and reminded us of the power of community and empathy.

Let's remember that every day is an opportunity to do good. Whether big or small, our actions matter. Let's keep the spirit of Good Deeds Day alive all year round by choosing kindness, helping others, and being mindful of how we care for each other and our planet.

Together, we can build a better world, one good deed at a time." – Special Envoy Briceño

a) OW Central

They marked Good Deeds Day with a tree planting and cleanup at the Philip Alvarez Park.

Thanks to the volunteers from Orange Walk Central UWG, CAB, Optimist Club Orange Walk, and OW Central Executive members for their incredible efforts.

Special thanks to the Office of the Special Envoy, Ministry of Agriculture, Orange Walk Town Council, Hon. John Briceño, and the many family and friends who donated plants and made this event possible.

Together, we're growing a greener, cleaner Orange Walk Central!

b) Optimist Club

We shine a spotlight on the incredible efforts of Optimist Club 501 Belize Northern Region members who gathered at Phillip Alvarez Park for a tree planting and clean-up campaign!

This initiative marks our dedication to making a positive impact on our community, one tree and one cleaned-up area at a time.

Let's continue spreading positivity and making a difference, one good deed at a time!

c) In Belize City

We are so thankful for the facelift we received yesterday at St. John Vianney Parish Hall. Mrs. Charlotte Nal through her foundation, Ixchel Caribe in conjunction with her partners the Special Envoy, The Belize City Council, SJC Campus Ministry, Miss Belize and Vargas Foods along with family and friends, decided that on this day every year she would return to give back to the country of her birth.

May Our Heavenly Father continue to guide and bless the work that you do!!! Joy and gratitude for this beautiful effort. Thank you!!!

d) Queen's Square

This day encourages global participation in acts of kindness and community engagement, with the theme of "Think Good, Speak Good, Do Good"

Dr. Lorna McKay and her team gave back to the community! They made a big difference by providing refreshing drinks and snacks to people in downtown Belize City (Albert Street) acts of kindness like these truly show the power of community and how much small gestures can have a positive impact.

This inspire others to get involved and help spread kindness. What a fantastic way to make a difference!

e) In Corozal

Celebrating Good Deeds Day with a purpose!

We spent the day with our amazing elderly friends at Corozal Helpage spreading love and kindness in every way. From a fun-filled exercise session to get those endorphins pumping, to health screening tests to ensure their well-being, and sharing healthy snacks to nourish both body and soul... it was a day filled with joy, care, and connection!

Thank you to everyone who made this special day possible; Minister Thea Ramirez Garcia, Councillor Leslie Rodriguez, UWG and BYM.

f) In Ladyville

Members of Our Lady of the Way Parish and our Rooted in Christ Youth Ministry, with the support of the Office of the Special Envoy for the Development of Families and Children, came together in a spirit of service to paint the interior fence of our church and school. This initiative enhanced the appearance of our shared space and served as a meaningful act of unity, community pride, and faith in action.

We are grateful for the support and participation of everyone who contributed their time and effort to this beautiful expression of goodwill.

g) Orange Walk East

It was a heart-warming and inspiring day celebrated with dynamic parents and children of different diverse abilities.

The energy and joy in the room were infectious as the children began their day with songs of worship. They had the opportunity to listen to a captivating storytelling session, which entertained and taught them the invaluable lesson of kindness.

The children were reminded that we are all unique and different in our own way, but each of us possesses our own superpower talents. The excitement continued as the children expressed their creativity by painting their favorite characters from the story and sharing them with their friends. It was truly a day filled with positivity and love, as we spent time with these amazing children, socializing and having fun together.

Special thanks to the Office of the Special Envoy, Minister Kevin Bernard, and the United Women's Group East for their continuous support in such activities.

h) Belize Youth Movement – Belmopan Chapter

This year, the Belmopan Chapter focused on supporting our elderly community. We organized a meaningful day filled with gratitude, meditation, bingo games, and the preparation of healthy snacks for our senior citizens. This initiative aimed to foster connection and appreciation for their invaluable contributions to society.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Hon. Oscar Mira - Belmopan for his unwavering support in making this event possible. Special thanks also go to our dedicated team members— Kelsey Reneé Coc, Dwayne Garcia, Maryeli Manzanilla, Marleny Dominguez, Joycelyn Chun, Margarita Ruiz, and Shannia Pech—whose efforts brought this day to life. -Diane Cho, President

i) Shuga City Flames

Our team, in collaboration with Orange Walk Running Rebels, The Orange Walk Town Council and H.E. Rossana Briceno held a clean-up campaign at the East Basketball court. Children and their families came out to clean the court where the boys practice. The fences were cleared of overgrown weeds, the drains were cleared and the leaves and garbage were picked up.

It is always beautiful to see the boys and their families come together to make our home look beautiful and clean for all.

We would also like to thank Mrs. Enid from the Department of Youth Services in OW, Councillor Cadir Escalante and Mr. Victor Pacheco for the support given.

j) San Estevan

The San Estevan Marching Band proudly joins the nation of Belize in celebrating a day dedicated to community service. Together, we stand committed to uplifting and empowering our community, one good deed at a time!

Faber: No Apologies

Reports are that former UDP LOO Faber has pulled what can be considered due pay to at least one of his campaign workers. The report goes to indicate that the frustrated Collet voter says she feels used and betrayed by the now former area representative Patrick Faber, claiming he failed to deliver on a promise made during the campaign. The voter purportedly traveled all the way from Placencia Village to Belize City to campaign for Faber. This would have been remunerated with help in building a septic system for her home.

"I came all the way from Placencia to assist with the campaigning for my area, and I requested assistance with some material to build a septic," the woman shared in the media report. According to her, just one day before the election, she was told her request was approved. "Juliet told me that Patrick said to order the material from Benny's, which she did, and I got a receipt," she wrote according to the report. She only had to pay a $168 delivery fee to Placencia which is money the voter didn't have at the time. She arranged to pay it and collect the material after the election.

That's when the shock came.

"I was surprised to hear that the order was canceled by Juliet," she said. "Now I find this so unfair to me and the others, and I believe the public should know the injustice that Patrick and his assistant is doing to us." The report indicates that the voter says she put in real effort on the campaign trail only to be left with empty promises and no support after Faber's defeat.

It seems that Faber is still the unapologetic individual who was forced to leave the LOO office after a video showed him violently speeding towards a door purportedly harassing in a violent manner the mother of his child. Faber was a repeat offender when it came to scandals involving violence towards women. But just like Shyne's, the accusations were lifted.

In this case, it is word against word. The voter was promised and the promise was pulled. Faber's word is that he did pull the promise because Faber believes that he was betrayed on election day. Is this a case of sore loser? It is UDP style at its best.

Benny's

Mile 7 Philip Goldson Highway
Tel:223-6236 Fax:223-6239
sales@bennysonline.com
www.bennys.bz

CUSTOMER COPY

Plumbing Fixtures & Fittings, Drywall, Lighting, Lighting Fixtures, Tiles, Roofing, Fencing, Pump Systems, Water Heaters, Windows, Doors, Electrical, Tools, Paints, Kitchen and Bath Cabinets, Tools and Equipment, Iron, Cabinet Hardware, Plywood, Myson

Faber, Patrick
Belize

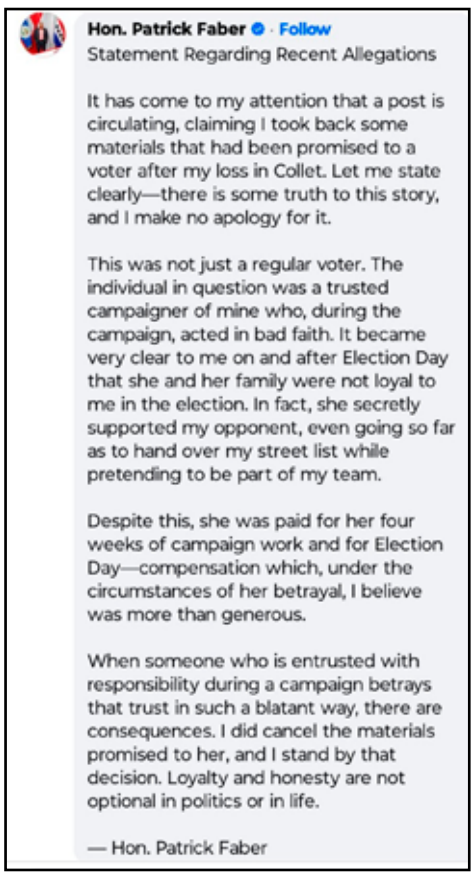
Customer No. 5012-000 Page 1
TIN
Sold by: blake
Cashier Marcia
Selected by Checked by

Phone Fax
Email patrickfaber@hotmail.com

Qty.	Stock #	Item Description	SCN?	List Price (each)	Multiplier	Net Price (each)	Tax Code	Net Extended
PI	6	9016-99-99716	Progresso 4,000/8,060 PSI Cement 42.5Kgs	N	15.33	0.850	17.21	103.25
PI	100	4030-99-92067	Cement Blocks, 6"	N	2.44	0.880	2.15	215.00
PI	1	0630-20-11870	Pipe 6"x 20' Sch 40 916850	N	138.80	0.800	111.04	111.04

Discounts may be forfeited for non-payment before due date. All moneys due by the 10th of the following month. Benny's retains ownership of above items until due balance is paid and reserves the right to repossess items within 10 days of notice. Interest of 1.5% on overdue balances.
We are not responsible for shortages or damages if not reported within 3 days. No returns allowed on selected items. No returns after 5 days. Items must be in original condition and packaging. Original invoice MUST BE PRESENTED! Cash returns subject to 10% re-stocking fee.

Total at Retail	$495.78	Total	$429.30
Your Total	$429.30	Taxable Goods	$429.30
Your discount	$69.48	Tax 12.5 %	$53.66
		Invoice Total	$482.96


Hon. Patrick Faber · Follow
Statement Regarding Recent Allegations

It has come to my attention that a post is circulating, claiming I took back some materials that had been promised to a voter after my loss in Collet. Let me state clearly—there is some truth to this story, and I make no apology for it.

This was not just a regular voter. The individual in question was a trusted campaigner of mine who, during the campaign, acted in bad faith. It became very clear to me on and after Election Day that she and her family were not loyal to me in the election. In fact, she secretly supported my opponent, even going so far as to hand over my street list while pretending to be part of my team.

Despite this, she was paid for her four weeks of campaign work and for Election Day—compensation which, under the circumstances of her betrayal, I believe was more than generous.

When someone who is entrusted with responsibility during a campaign betrays that trust in such a blatant way, there are consequences. I did cancel the materials promised to her, and I stand by that decision. Loyalty and honesty are not optional in politics or in life.

— Hon. Patrick Faber

CALL
820-8385 or
EMAIL:
belizetimesadvertisement@yahoo.com
To place advertisement in the Belize Times Newspaper

IIBz

Insurance Institute of Belize

Creating the Foundation of Knowledge for Professionals of Tomorrow!

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

N O T I C E is hereby given that the 17th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Insurance Institute of Belize (IIBz) will be held at the Belize Institute of Management (BIM) at Belize City on Wednesday,21st May, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

Please confirm attendance by 7th May, 2025.

By order of the board members

Board Members

Ms. Melissa Gallego - President
Mr. Jamin Castillo- Vice President
Ms. Leanie Azueta - Secretary
Ms. Maurita Romero - Treasurer
Mr. Travis Gabb - PR Officer
Mrs. Deedra Lecky - Chairperson of Education Committee
Ms. Aida Cruz - Asst. Chairperson of Education Committee
Immediate Past President – Mr. Stephen Swift

FOR SALE
BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEE

The Development Finance Corporation of Bliss Parade, City of Belmopan, Cayo District hereby gives notice of its intention to exercise its power of sale as mortgagee under Deed of Mortgages or Charges between those hereinafter named and the said Corporation which mortgages or charges are recorded at the Land Titles Unit or the Lands Registry, respectively and that the said Development Finance Corporation will, at the expiration of two (2) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, sell the properties described in the Schedule hereto.

All offers to purchase the said properties must be made in writing to the said Corporation at its Headquarters Office or District Offices.

SCHEDULE

Parcel No. 1634, Block No. 20, Belmopan Registration Section containing approximately 0.1377 acres situate in the City of Belmopan, Cayo District, Belize, held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of MELVIN ANDREW GILLETT.

Parcel No. 6779, Block No. 16, Ladyville/Lord's Bank Registration Section containing approximately 0.13 acre(s) situate in the Los Lagos Area, Ladyville Village, Belize District, Belize, held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of ORLANDO HUMPHREY WAGNER

All that piece or parcel of Land being Lot No. 2 containing 0.95 acres situate along the Philip Goldson Highway near Mile 16.5 Sandhill Village, Belize District, Belize, and being more particularly shown on Entry No. 15484, Register No. 13, held under a Deed of Conveyance being the freehold interest of RAFAEL YAMANY GONGORA & SONIA JEX.

DATED THIS 8TH DAY OF APRIL 2025

Main Kitchen and Dining Facilities Officially Open for Operations

BDF Enhances Troop Welfare with New Main Kitchen and Dining Facilities

This April, one year after construction began, a significant milestone for the Belize Defence Force (BDF) was reached with the official operational opening of the newly built Main Kitchen and Dining Facilities. This state-of-the-art facility is designed to significantly enhance the quality of life for our soldiers, offering them nutritious meals in a comfortable and modern setting.

The newly opened facilities feature an upgraded walk-in freezer, enhanced cooking equipment, and expanded dining space for both senior leaders (Officers and SNCOs) and the troops. These upgrades will not only streamline meal preparation and service but also ensure that our troops receive the best possible sustenance to support their demanding duties.

"This is a momentous occasion for the BDF," stated Services BN CO LtCol Williams "These new facilities represent our commitment to the welfare of our soldiers, recognizing the vital role that proper nutrition plays in maintaining their readiness and morale."

The BDF extends its gratitude to all those involved in making this project a reality. The new Main Kitchen and Dining Facilities are now fully operational and will serve as a cornerstone for troop support for years to come. (post)

The Government of Belize and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) signed a loan agreement for US$30 million (BZ$60 million) in 2015 for the Belize Integral Security Program. It wasn't until 2021, that the Ministry of Defence and Border Security started to make moves to use funds from that loan to improve the Belize Defence Force. The ruling party at that time was too incompetent to make use of these funds. It can be argued that since kickbacks were not possible in this transparent fund, the UDP under Barrow and Faber and Tracy and Saldivar made no moves to help the Belize Defence Force. The corrupt UDP were willing to let these funds reach their expiry dates.

Operating with a limited budget, the BDF manages hundreds of soldiers and 200 buildings at Price Barracks. The loan now in 2025 has been used to purchase equipment, including motor vehicles, and infrastructure improvements, including the kitchen and living areas that were in dire need of renovation.

This transparent and accountable procurement is easy under the auspices of planBelize 2.0. So under the Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP), the BZ$60-million-dollar project funded by the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), the capacity of the BPD and BDF to provide increased security for citizens will improve thus making Belize a safer and more productive country.

Fishing Industry

Data Harmonization and Standardization Workshop

The Belize Fisheries Department convened a very productive three-day workshop from March 31 - April 2 in Belize City, focusing on Harmonizing Data Collection and Sharing to Inform Management. Participants engaged in detailed discussions on legal frameworks and proposed fishery-dependent and independent data collection strategies for spiny lobster, finfish, and queen conch.

Presentations also covered data management and sharing recommendations, including national reporting systems. Dedicated sessions explored monitoring protocols for reef health and the specific data needs for other fisheries such as the sea cucumber, shark, and stone crab fisheries. A key focus were modern data management strategies, including the use of the SMART system, to pave the way for improved national reporting and collaborative data sharing.

The workshop facilitated collaborative dialogue on survey design, data gaps, and collection metrics. Participants also addressed data sharing agreements and the research permit framework. The event concluded with mapping out actionable next steps towards a unified and standardized approach to fisheries and marine conservation data management in Belize.

This workshop was made possible by funding from the Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future - Belize Fund through the Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit, under the Government Strategic Allocation (GSA) as part of the project titled ***"Establishing the Enabling Environment for the Development of a Marine Spatial Plan through Strengthened Governance, Improved Management, and Enhanced Monitoring of Belize's Coastal and Marine Resources".***

The Fisheries Department would like to thank Dr. Kendra Karr, consultant and facilitator, and all of the presenters and participants, partners and co-managers for their participation and significant contributions in these dynamic sessions. We look forward to strengthening collaboration to ensure that science and robust data collection remains a pillar of sustainable fisheries management in Belize. (post)

PACT AND BELIZE FUND PARTNERING

STRENGTHEN CONSERVATION FINANCING IN BELIZE

(City of Belmopan, April 7, 2025) – The Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) and the Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future (Belize Fund) have formalized a partnership to enhance conservation financing for Belize's National Protected Areas System (NPAS). Today's signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) marks a significant step in ensuring coordinated and effective financing for the country's protected areas and natural resources.

This agreement sets the foundation for collaboration in key areas, including joint resource mobilization, standardized conservation financing policies, stakeholder engagement, and coordinated participation in international conservation forums. The partnership also seeks to increase public awareness of conservation efforts through joint campaigns and a National Conservation Summit in 2025.

"Today, is a powerful statement to our partners in conservation, in sustainable development, and in general to every Belizean, by both PACT and the Belize Fund, that protecting our environment and ensuring a sustainable future for our people is not just a priority- it is an obligation," expressed Hon. Orlando Habet, Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and Solid Waste Management.

"By working together, we can avoid duplication of efforts and create more strategic and impactful conservation financing for Belize," said Dr. Leandra Cho-Ricketts, Executive Director of the Belize Fund. Noting the significance of sustainable financing

Continued on page 11

TERMS OF REFERENCE MICROSOFT 365 LICENSE PROCUREMENT

Background: The Belize Tax Service (BTS), a department under the Ministry of Finance, is seeking to procure Microsoft 365 licenses to support its digital transformation and ensure secure, collaborative, and efficient service delivery across all units. The licenses are intended to maintain and expand current capabilities under the Government of Belize's standard ICT platform.

Objective: To acquire a one-year subscription of Microsoft 365 licenses tailored to the operational and security needs of BTS, including collaboration tools, project management solutions, security add-ons, and analytics services.

Scope of Work: The successful vendor will be responsible for providing the following services:
- Provisioning and activation of Microsoft 365 licenses listed below.
- Technical support for license provisioning and user onboarding.
- Full license handover to BTS with documentation.
- Resolution of any technical issues during the subscription period.

Technical Specifications:

Item Description	Quantity
Microsoft 365 E5 without Audio Conferencing (No Teams)	230
Microsoft Teams Enterprise	215
Visio Plan 2	12
Planner and Project Plan 3	12
Power BI Pro	5
Microsoft Defender for Office 365 (Plan 1)	5
Office 365 E1 (No Teams)	15

Program of Work: Licenses must be activated and functional within seven (7) business days of contract award.
- The vendor must provide post-deployment support and issue resolution throughout the 12-month contract period.

Subscription Terms: This is a one-year subscription agreement.
- Subscription cannot be suspended or quantities reduced during the active term.
- A 72-hour grace period for cancellation or changes apply, after which changes will incur prorated charges.

Payment Terms: All pricing shall be in Belize dollars and inclusive of GST.

- Upon acceptance of the quotation, the vendor shall be liable for all provisioning and associated costs.
- Final pricing is subject to approval by Belize Tax Service.

Eligibility Criteria: The vendor must be an active Microsoft Cloud Service Provider (CSP) authorized to sell Microsoft licenses in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

- The vendor must have an active membership in the Microsoft Partner Network (MPN).
- The vendor must have successfully delivered at least one (1) Microsoft 365 project of similar size and scope within the past three (3) years.
- The vendor must submit a valid business certificate and be in good standing with Belize Tax Service, Belize Companies Registry, and Belize Social Security Board.
- The vendor must provide two client references related to Microsoft 365 deployments within the last three years.
- The vendor must demonstrate the availability of financial resources or access to credit equivalent to the full contract value.

Evaluation Criteria: Tenders will be evaluated on technical merit and price based on the following criteria:

Evaluation Criteria	Weight (%)
Financial Order	50%
Direct technical support from Microsoft	20%
Access to the portal for managing licenses throughout the term of the agreement (1 year)	10%
Service delivery models for issue resolution	10%
Service delivery experience in provisioning and supporting Microsoft 365 for businesses of similar size	5%
Financial strength of the economy demonstrated over the past three (3) years	5%

Language: English
Contact for Clarification: All clarifications regarding this Terms of Reference can be directed to:

Mr. Gabriel Bol
Belize Tax Service
Email: Gabriel.Bol@bts.gov.bz

Submission Deadline: May 23, 2025, by 2:00pm (Belize Time)
All submissions are to be made to:

Michelle Longsworth (Mrs.)
Director General
Belize Tax Service
Eleanor Hall Building
Lake Independence Boulevard
Belize City, Belize
Email: Michelle.Longsworth@bts.gov.bz

PACT AND BELIZE FUND PARTNERING
STRENGTHEN CONSERVATION FINANCING IN BELIZE

Continued from page 9

for protected areas, she added, "This partnership aligns with our mission to invest in Belize's marine and conservation priorities. By combining efforts, we can maximize the impact of our resources and support meaningful, science-driven conservation and community projects."

"Our organizations have collectively invested over BZ$64 million to advance Belize's conservation goals. Through this Memorandum of Understanding, we reaffirm our commitment to our unified mission of safeguarding Belize's natural heritage and supporting the development of our communities and partners who share this responsibility," shared Mr. Abil Castañeda, Executive Director of PACT, emphasizing the importance of this partnership.

The MOU will be in effect for five years, with both organizations conducting regular assessments and joint initiatives that enhance Belize's conservation landscape. Both PACT and the Belize Fund are committed to supporting Belize's National Protected Areas System, which includes a network of protected areas established to safeguard the country's natural and cultural resources and ecosystem services. (release)

MIDH PUBLIC NOTICE

The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) proudly announces the advancement of its efforts to modernize Belize's building construction industry through the introduction of building codes.

The Ministry proposed to adopt the International Building Code (IBC), which is the cornerstone of a suite of industry codes developed by the International Code Council (ICC). The Ministry also took the extra step to modify and adapt the IBC to Belize's unique environment. This was done with the voluntary participation of the MIDH, Central Building Authority, Association of Professional Architects of Belize, Association of Professional Engineers of Belize, and utility companies. The result of three years of their valuable time is the Belize Building Code, which was built on the globally accepted foundation of the IBC.

In its recent session, Cabinet approved legislative amendments to the Belize Building Act, which will introduce the 2024 Belize Building Code as the base document for future building construction in Belize.

Over the next year, before its official launch in 2026, the MIDH will spearhead a public campaign that will sensitize building industry professionals, stakeholders, and users of the 2024 Belize Building Code, empowering all with tools that will elevate building performance in the areas of public safety, public accessibility, and building construction quality.

The MIDH looks forward with optimism to the public's excitement and energy as it continues to put Belize's building quality and safety as a top priority and paramount importance. (release)

Notice of Employment:

Dr. Amin Hegar of Belize Vision Center has an available post for a Retinologist eye specialist to practice at his clinic at # 9 Daly Street, Belize City. Call 610-2293 for more information.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES:

Notice is hereby given that **Judith Quiros** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"3 J's Restaurant"** located in Crooked Tree Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Gina Marie Smith** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **"Brew Coffee House"** located at # 2/4 Hutson Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Shariffa Banner/Mike Forman** are applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Lil Mike's Family Pizza"** located at # 20 Nurse Seay Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Baining Ye** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Tang Fa Cool Spot"** located in Bullet Tree Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

BELIZE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES LTD.

Fi WE Boledo!

March 20, 2025

Public Notice

Relocation of Live Boledo, Ordinary & Jackpot Lottery Drawings

The Belize Government Lotteries Ltd. hereby advises the public that effective Sunday, April 27, 2025, the LIVE drawing of the Belize government lottery games; including Boledo, Ordinary Lottery and Jackpot Lottery will be relocated to the City of Belmopan.

The administrative office and all staff of the Belize Government Lotteries Ltd. are located in Belmopan. As a result, the relocation is being carried out to increase efficiency as well as to reduce the risk for the suspension of any future drawings due to the vulnerability of hurricanes and flooding in Belize City.

Belize Government Lotteries Ltd. assures the public that all protocols will continue as per usual. These protocols include:

- **Weighing of balls before and after each drawing**
- **Witnessing of ball weighing by an auditor from the auditing firm of Coye & Associates as well as an officer from the Treasury Department or other Senior Public Service Office to ensure that the weights are within the acceptable weight range as per international guidelines**
- **Conducting of drawings by supervisory personnel from the Treasury Department or other Senior Public Service Officers.**
- **Witnessing of drawing by an auditor representing the auditing firm of Coye & Associates**
- **Live broadcast by Love FM**

The new drawing office will be located inside the Emporium Plaza located at Cor. Rio Grande & Nim Li Punit Street, Belmopan City. Belize Government Lotteries Ltd. further reminds the general public that anyone wishing to attend and witness the live public drawings are always welcome to do so.

Fi we Fun, Fi we Profits, Fi we Boledo

www.lotteries.bz

Minister Henry Charles Usher meeting with the Management Team of the Ministry of Public Service, Governance and Disaster Risk Management

On April 9th, 2025, Hon. Henry Charles Usher, Minister of the Public Service, Governance and Disaster Risk Management, together with Mr. Rolando Zetina, Chief Executive Officer, convened a productive and forward-focused meeting with the management teams from the Ministry of Public Service, Governance, the National Fire Service, the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO), and the National Meteorological Service.

The session centered on reviewing ongoing initiatives, addressing current challenges, and planning for upcoming events and projects across the various departments. It was an important opportunity to foster collaboration, assess progress, and align strategies for enhanced service delivery.

Minister Usher used the occasion to personally thank each team for their unwavering commitment to their work and to the people of Belize. He acknowledged the dedication, resilience, and professionalism demonstrated by staff across the Ministry, especially in times of crisis and national need.

The Ministry remains committed to strengthening good governance, improving public service delivery, and enhancing national resilience to disaster risks through effective collaboration and visionary leadership. (release)

STATUTORY NOTICE
TO CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE of EMMANUEL DERRICK OGALDEZ, Deceased, of SEINE BIGHT VILLAGE, STANN CREEK DISTRICT, BELIZE.

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020, that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands upon or against the **Estate of EMMANUEL DERRICK OGALDEZ** deceased, of **SEINE BIGHT VILLAGE, STANN CREEK DISTRICT, BELIZE** who died on the 8th day of December, 2022 in whose estate a Grant of Administration has been granted to **FELIPA JASSETTE OGALDEZ,** the lawful Administratrix of **Seine Bight Village, Stann Creek District, Belize,** on or before the expiration of three months from the first publication hereof **AND NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN** that at the expiration of the said three months the said **FELIPA JASSETTE OGALDEZ** shall proceed to distribute the assets of the said, **EMMANUEL DERRICK OGALDEZ**, deceased, amongst the beneficiaries entitled thereto, having regard only to claims and demands of which they shall then have had notice.

DATED this 18th day of March 2025

GLENN D. GODFREY & COMPANY LLP
Attorneys-at-Law for
FELIPA JASSETTE OGALDEZ
Administratrix of the Estate of
EMMANUEL DERRICK OGALDEZ

Atlantic Bank
Wishes everyone a safe and happy
Easter
All Branches and Drive Thrus
will be closed for business at
1:00 PM on Holy Thursday, April 17, 2025.
and will reopen on Tuesday, April 22, 2025.
For your shopping convenience, use your
Atlantic Bank Visa/Mastercard Debit or Credit Cards.
For quick cash, use any of our ATMs or
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The Hunt is ON @ Digi

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ZTE BLADE A35

TECNO SPARK GO 1S

SAMSUNG A05

SAMSUNG A06

TECNO SPARK 30C

SAMSUNG A16

SAMSUNG A25

SAMSUNG A35

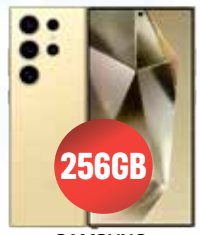
FREE DATA
with your device purchase

Social Media Prime Plan with
3GB Social Media Data
+ 3GB Any Use Data
with your purchase
(for devices under $1,000)

Social Media Pro Plan with
Unlimited Social Media Data
+ 4GB Any Use Data
with your purchase
(for devices over $1,000)

SAMSUNG S24FE

SAMSUNG S25



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MONTHLY PAYMENTS AVAILABLE FOR SAMSUNG DEVICES

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PlanBelize 2.0

Good Deeds Day – 'Doing Good'

PM's OW Central, UWG, Special Envoy, Several Organizations

Hon. Thea Garcia Ramirez's Team in Corozal Bay

Hon. Oscar Mira's Team in Belmopan

Hon. Oscar Mira - Belmopan

Beautification of Devon Beaton Park

Min. Francis Fonseca (Freetown), Culture

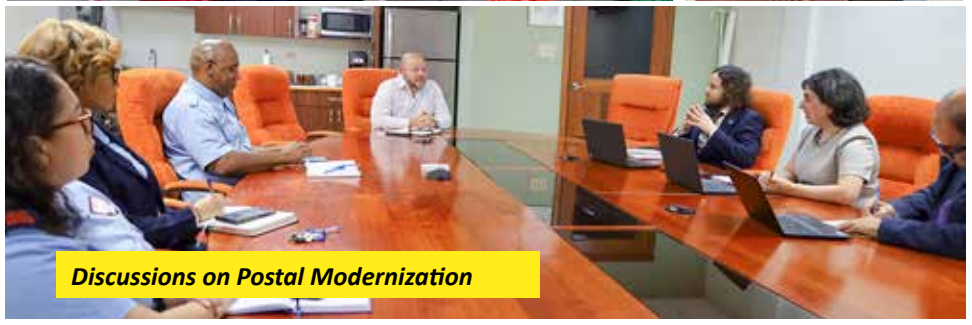
National Celebrations Committee meeting for 44th anniversary

Min. Oscar Requena (Toledo East), Education, Science and Technology

Familiarization visit with ITVET city

Min. Michel Chebat (Cayo North), Public Utilities, Energy & Logistics

Addressing CET Cayo for their OPEN Day



Discussions on Postal Modernization

Min. Jose Mai(OW South), Agriculture, Food Security & Enterprise

Belize Takes Over CIRSA Presidency

Min. Florencio Marin (Czl Southeast), Local Gov't

Local Government Donates Computers to Municipalities

The Board of Directors
Management & Staff of

HRCU

WISH ITS MEMBER-OWNERS
AND ALL BELIZEANS A

Happy, Blessed, and Safe

Easter Season 2025

HRCU reminds member-owners to
save regularly, borrow wisely and
repay promptly as promised!

**HRCU will close at 12:00 Noon on
Holy Thursday (April 17, 2025)**

Our Online, ATMs and Depository Services
in Belize and Independence remain open 24 hours

GREAT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES

Sarteneja Village, Progresso Village, Warree Bight, Corozal Town, Buena Vista Corozal District; San Estevan Village, San Lazaro Village, Trial Farm Village, Orange Walk District; Crooked Tree Village, Belize District; Belmopan City, Cayo District; Sarawee Village, Middlesex Village, Stann Creek District; Boom Creek Road, Toledo District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Development Finance Corporation, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties. Sales currently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties are sold.

A: COROZAL DISTRICT:

1. Parcel No. 778/1 Sarteneja Village, Corozal District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Sarteneja	3	778/1
The leasehold property of Mr. Andrew Mark Bowman.		

2. Parcel No. 716 Progresso Village, Corozal District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Progresso	1	716
The freehold property of Ms. Marion Margaret Lamb surety for Mr. Norlan Absolon Lamb.		

3. Parcel No. 129/1 Progresso Village, Corozal District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Ann Gabourel	4	129/1
The leasehold property of Mr. Eleuterio Patt and Mr. Mainor Abner Patt surety for Mainor Abner Patt.		

4. Parcel No. 769/1 Warree Bight, Corozal District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Warree Bight/ Freshwater Cree	3	769/1
The leasehold property of Mr. Johan Wall.		

5. Parcel No. 86/1, Buena Vista Village, Corozal District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Buena Vista	1	86/1
The freehold property of Mr. Crisanto Cristino Ewan surety for Mr. Valerio Rene Lopez.		

6. Parcel No. 1033 F Street South, Corozal Town, Corozal District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Corozal Central	1	1033
The freehold property of Mr. Benjamin Jose Antonio Acosta.		

B: ORANGE WALK DISTRICT:

1. Parcel No. 603/1 San Estevan Village, Orange Walk District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Estevan	1	603/1
The leasehold property of Ms. Hortencia Yanella Chan & Mr. Rosendo Melvin Chan.		

2. Parcel No. 333/1 San Lazaro Village, Orange Walk District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Lazaro	4	333/1
The leasehold property of Mr. Pablo Tun surety for Mr. Roger Pablo Tun and Mr. Pablo Tun		

3. Parcel No. 1013 Pucte Villas, Trial Farm Village, Orange Walk District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Ann Gabourel	4	1013
The freehold property of Ms. Nellie Felipa Briceno & Jairo Zadir Campos (Jointly) surety for Jairo Zadir Campos.		

C: BELIZE DISTRICT:

1. 49.99 Acres Crooked Tree Road, near Mile 32 Phillip Goldson Highway, Belize District:

All that piece or parcel of land containing 49.99 Acres situated on the Crooked Tree Road near Mile 32 Phillip Goldson Highway, the freehold property of Mr. Madu Odhermal Babani.

D: CAYO DISTRICT:

1. Parcel No. 9706 New Era Development Area, Belmopan, Cayo District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Belmopan	20	9706
The freehold property of Ms. Jenna Karina M. Baide, Roberto Alvaro Bautista and Regina Mary Baide surety for Jenna Karina M. Baide & Roberto Alvaro Bautista.		

E: STANN CREEK DISTRICT:

1. 404.550 S.M being Lot No. 165 & 166 in Sarawee Village Stann Creek District:

All that piece or parcel of land being Lot. 165 situate in Sarawee Village, Stann Creek District, the freehold property of Ms. Marion Margaret Lamb surety for Mr. Norlan Absolon Lamb.

All that piece or parcel of land being Lot. 166 situate in Sarawee Village, Stann Creek District, the freehold property of Ms. Marion Margaret Lamb surety for Mr. Norlan Absolon Lamb.

2. Parcel No. 3257 Middlesex Village, Hummingbird Highway, Stann Creek District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Middlesex Village	28	3257
The freehold property of Ms. Teresa Isabel Hernandez.		

E: TOLEDO DISTRICT:

1. 310.34 Acres along the North Side of Boom Creek Road, Toledo District:

All that piece or parcel of land containing 310.34 Acres in Boom Creek Rd, Toledo District, the freehold property of Mr. Santos Aparicio Alegria surety for Mr. Santos Aparicio Alegria & Ms. Yencer Dany Alegria.

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE 223-4488
Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com
Facebook: Belize Auction

DFC FINANCING AVAILABLE ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS

HON GILROY USHER LEADS CLEANUP CAMPAIGN IN PORT

In making Belize a more beautiful and welcoming community, the Hon. Gilroy Usher Area Representative for Port Loyola joined a group of youth in the Leadership Intervention Program (LIU) in cleaning up Malcom St. in Belize City.

The work included removing materials that were blocking a part of the street. The drains were cleared with the collection of papers, plastic bags, and other discarded items on the side of the street. Additionally, the spreading of suitable fillings in low areas on the path for vehicles and pedestrians will help to avoid the inconvenience of waterholes in the rainy season.

Many thanks to residents who supported the cleanup effort in their own special way including expressing thanks for the work being done.

Belize National Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, who through Jesus Christ has revealed Your Glory to all nations, please protect and preserve Belize, our beloved country.

God of might, wisdom and justice, please assist our Belizean government and people with your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude.

Let Your light of Your divine wisdom direct their plans and endeavours so that with Your help we may attain our just objectives.

With Your guidance, may all our endeavours tend to peace, social justice, liberty, national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety and useful knowledge.

We pray, O God of Mercy, for all of us that we may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the

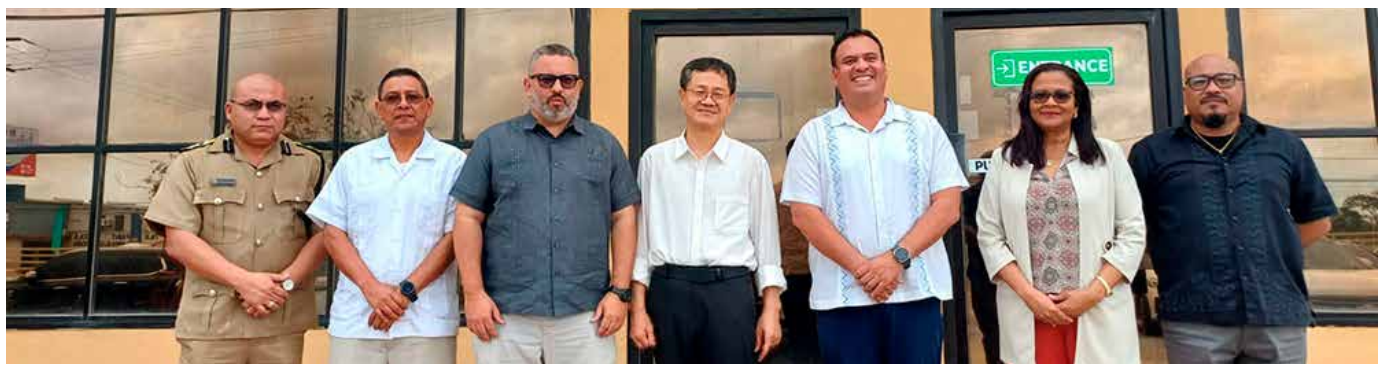
observance of Your most holy law, that we may be preserved in union and, in that peace which the world itself cannot give.

And, after enjoying the blessings of this life, please admit us, dear Lord, to that eternal reward that You have prepared for those who love You.

Amen.

FIVE KEYS
TO SAFER FOOD
KEEP CLEAN
• Wash your hands before handling food and often during food preparation.
• Wash your hands after going to the toilet.
• Wash and sanitize all surfaces and equipment used for food preparation.
• Protect food from insects and other animals.
USE SAFE WATER AND RAW MATERIALS
• Use safer water or treat it to make it safe.
• Select fresh and wholesome foods.
• Wash fruits and vegetables, especially if eaten raw.
• Choose foods processed for safety, such as pasteurized milk.
SEPARATE RAW AND COOKED
• Use separate equipment and utensils such as knives and cutting boards to handling meat, poultry, seafood, and other raw foods.
• Store raw and prepared foods in separate containers.
COOK THOROUGHLY
• Cook food thoroughly, especially meat, poultry, eggs and seafood.
• Bring foods like soups and stews to boiling to make sure that they have reached 70°C (158°F).
• Reheat cooked food thoroughly.
70°C
KEEP FOOD AT SAFE TEMPERATURES
• Do not leave cooked food at room temperature for more than 2 hours.
• Refrigate promptly all cooked and perishable food (preferably below 5°C (41°F)).
• Keep cooked food piping hot (more than 60°C (140°F)).
• Do not thaw frozen food at room temperature.
60°C
5°C
DANGER ZONE
PAHO

Police Department receives Patrol Vehicle



April 9, 2025 - Honorable Kareem Musa, Minister of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries, received the keys to a fully equipped patrol vehicle from Mr. Joseph Lee, Chief Operations Officer of INNODEP, on April 8, 2025.

This vehicle is one of two vehicles specifically intended for rapid response in coordination with the advanced camera system and the 911 emergency response framework being implemented as part of the BZ$60,000,000.00, Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) funded Belize Integral Security Programme. INNODEP, a renowned international firm, has successfully secured the contract for the Acquisition, Installation, and Commissioning of a state-of-the-art Camera System and Emergency Response System tailored for designated areas in Belize City.

Currently in progress, this project is expected to be completed by the end of July 2025. Equipped with cutting-edge AI cameras and modern surveillance technology, the system aims to significantly enhance crime prevention efforts and bolster overall citizen safety. By seamlessly integrating these innovative solutions, the initiative strives to foster a more secure environment for the community, ultimately promoting a greater sense of safety and well-being among residents.

The handover of the vehicle was attended by several distinguished individuals, including the Minister of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries, Honorable Kareem Musa; the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries, Ms. Sharole Carr; Deputy Commissioner of Police, Dr. Anthony Rosado; INNODEP Director, Mr. Jeter Kim; INNODEP Executive Director for Latin America, Mr. Alex Shin; and Officials from the Ministry of Economic Transformation. (release)

Public Announcement

New Border Hours at the Western Border Station Now in Effect

Belmopan, April 7, 2025.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Culture, and Immigration announces the implementation of new operating hours at the Belize Western Border Station with Guatemala, effective April 4, 2025. These updated hours are designed to facilitate trade and enhance the efficient movement of people and goods.

New Border Operating Hours:

• Cargo Processing

o Monday to Friday: 6:00 AM – 5:00 PM

o Saturday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

o Closed on Sundays and Public Holidays

• Passenger and Non-Cargo Vehicles

o Daily: 4:00 AM – 10:00 PM

• Pre-processed cargo Parking (by SAT Guatemala)

o Monday to Saturday: 5:00 PM – 10:00 PM

o Sundays and Public Holidays: 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM

o Fee: BZ$80.00 per unit, per night (subject to space availability)

The Ministry encourages all users of the border station, including logistics operators, importers/exporters, and travelers, to adjust their schedules in accordance with the new hours.

Ends

CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

EXAMINER-IN-CHARGE, OFF-SITE SURVEILLANCE

The Central Bank invites qualified individuals to join its Supervision Department.

The Examiner-in-Charge, Off-site Surveillance, will lead and supervise an assigned team and ensure the timely execution of the off-site surveillance programme for a portfolio of supervised institutions.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Supervise members of the off-site surveillance team.
- Assist in developing operational plans for the off-site surveillance of supervised institutions, based on a risk-based framework.
- Review assessment reports on compliance with the provisions of the Domestic Banks and Financial Institutions Act (DBFIA), International Banking Act (IBA), Credit Unions Act (CUA), Moneylenders Act (MLA), National Payment System Act (NPSA), and the Money Laundering and Terrorism (Prevention) Act (MLTPA) and their accompanying Regulations and Guidelines.
- Review and process applications for the licensing and registration of banks, credit unions, money lenders, payment service providers, and other supervised institutions in accordance with the relevant licensing and registration regime.
- Prepare periodic reports for submission to the Board and other stakeholders on the financial status, performance, and regulatory status of licensed institutions.
- Review the off-site surveillance team's analyses of the assigned institutions' audited financial statements and advance recommendations for actions.
- Assist with drafting instructions to guide the development of regulations, practice directions, circulars, and guidelines to be issued under the DBFIA, IBA, CUA, MLA, and NPSA.
- Take appropriate actions to ensure that corrective actions arising from on-site examinations are addressed by licensed institutions.

The applicant should possess the following:

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- Preferred qualification: a master's degree in accounting, banking, finance, or economics from a recognised university, with at least five years of relevant experience in the supervision and regulation of financial institutions.
- A minimum of a bachelor's degree in accounting, banking, finance, or economics from a recognised university with at least seven years of relevant experience.

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

- Familiarity with the Central Bank of Belize Act, DBFIA, IBA, CUA, MLA, NPSA, and their accompanying Regulations and Guidelines; Strong supervisory skills; Knowledge of international best practices and standards recommended by relevant standard-setting bodies; and Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite.

COMPETENCIES

- Analytical Ability, Communication, Customer Focus, Digital Ability, Initiative, Interpersonal Relations, Organisational Ability, Problem Solving/Judgement, Decision Making.

Submit the following documents by **Wednesday, 16 April 2025:**

- Central Bank Employment Form (available online)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Copies of university transcripts, degrees, and any other personal certificates
- Two (2) current references (one must be from a previous employer)

Applications should be addressed to:

Manager, Human Resources Department
Central Bank of Belize
P O Box 852 or Gabourel Lane
Belize City, BELIZE

Ref: Examiner-In-Charge, Off-site Surveillance- Supervision Department

Email: hr@centralbank.org.bz or online at www.centralbank.org.bz
(All applications will be held in strict confidence.)

CENTSEC 2025

Belize Engages in Regional Defence Dialogue

Hon. Oscar Mira, Minister of National Defence and Border Security, is currently in Panama representing Belize at the Central American Security Conference (CENTSEC 2025), which took place from April 8 to 10, 2025.

CENTSEC is a key regional security forum that brings together Central American and United States defence and security leaders annually. The conference serves as a vital platform to strengthen regional cooperation, foster open dialogue on shared challenges, exchange best practices, and develop collaborative strategies to improve regional security.

This year's conference, co-hosted by the Republic of Panama and the United States of America, focuses on enhancing regional defence through joint operations and cybersecurity. CENTSEC 2025 builds on the success of previous conferences, reaffirming the shared commitment to promoting peace, stability, and security throughout Central America. (release)

LETTER TO THE Editor

A Long-Overdue Step, thanks

Dear Editor,

I write to express my full support for the Briceño Administration's decision to implement a phased retention package for our hardworking nurses in the public health system. This is a long-overdue but welcome initiative that acknowledges the critical role nurses play in the delivery of quality healthcare across Belize.

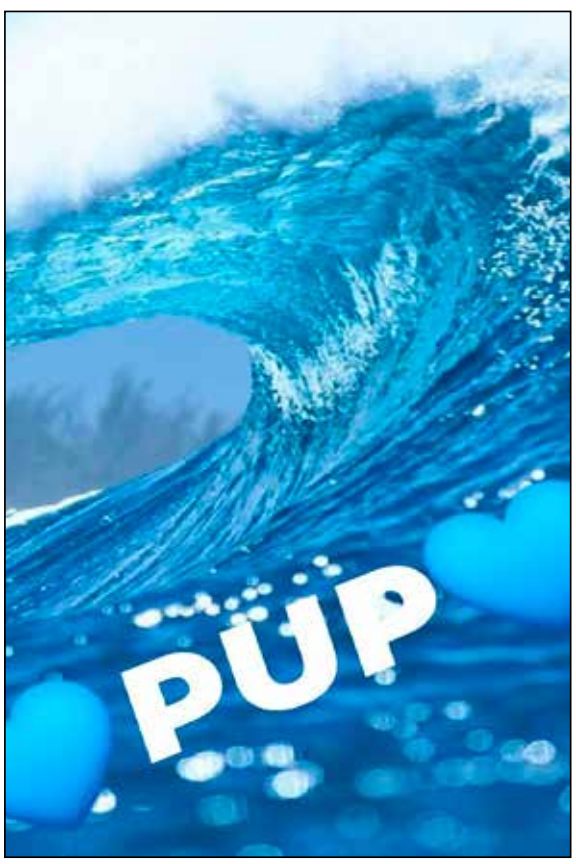
For too long, our country has suffered the loss of skilled nurses to higher-paying jobs abroad, leaving our health system vulnerable. With the Cabinet's endorsement of this retention package, Belize is finally taking meaningful action to address the brain drain that has plagued our health sector.

These improved salaries and allowance adjustments will not only help retain experienced nurses but also attract new talent and boost morale within the system. Additionally, the endorsement of the Belize Health Sector Strategic Plan 2025–2034 shows a commitment to long-term, systemic improvements in healthcare delivery.

We must continue to prioritize the well-being of our health workers if we are serious about building a healthier Belize. Kudos to the government for taking this transformative step.

Sincerely,

Retired Nurse



CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

EXAMINER-IN-CHARGE, ON-SITE EXAMINATION

The Central Bank invites qualified individuals to join its Supervision Department.

The Examiner-in-Charge, On-Site Examination, will lead and coordinate the work of the on-site team in conducting examinations and assessment of the business conditions, operations, and risk management at supervised institutions.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Supervise the examination team to ensure proper execution of the on-site examination plans and activities.
- Ensure that on-site examinations are conducted in accordance with the standards and guidelines.
- Assist with preparing and executing learning and development plans for the on-site examination team members.
- Review on-site examination processes and procedures, and provide advanced recommendations for improving efficiency and effectiveness.
- Assess the profitability, financial conditions, and effectiveness of the board and management of the licensee.
- Review current developments and future directions of various risks faced by licensees and assess the effectiveness of risk management.
- Summarise the significant findings of the on-site examination for presentation during exit meetings with management of the licensees.
- Assist with coordinating and preparing for meetings with Central Bank Executive to discuss on-site examination findings.
- Preparing reports on examination findings and recommended ameliorative actions.

The applicant should possess the following:

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- Preferred qualification: a master's degree in accounting, banking, finance, or economics from a recognised university, with at least five years of relevant experience in the supervision and regulation of financial institutions.
- A minimum of a bachelor's degree in accounting, banking, finance, or economics from a recognised university with at least seven years of relevant experience.

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

- Familiarity with the Central Bank of Belize Act, Domestic Banks and Financial Institutions Act, International Banking Act, Credit Unions Act, Moneylenders Act, National Payment System Act, and the Money Laundering and Terrorism (Prevention) Act, and their accompanying regulations; Strong supervisory skills; Knowledge of international best practices and standards recommended by relevant standard-setting bodies; and proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite.

COMPETENCIES

- Analytical Ability, Communication, Customer Focus, Digital Ability, Initiative, Interpersonal Relations, Organisational Ability, Problem Solving/Judgement, Decision Making.

Submit the following documents by **Wednesday, 16 April 2025:**

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P O Box 852 or Gabourel Lane
Belize City, BELIZE

Ref: Examiner In Charge- On-site Examination- Supervision Department

Email: hr@centralbank.org.bz or online at www.centralbank.org.bz
(All applications will be held in strict confidence.)

Green Climate Fund Approves Readiness Proposal for Belize

April 7, 2025 The Ministry of Economic Transformation, through its Climate Finance Unit (CFU), has successfully secured a BZD 1.9 million grant from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) via its readiness modality. This milestone marks a significant step, as the Ministry is now accessing direct funding from the world's largest climate fund to advance Belize's climate change agenda and national priorities included in #PlanBelize2.0.

The project will enable the Climate Finance Unit (CFU) to initiate the process of transitioning into a full-fledged department, as well as establishing a climate finance fund. Additionally, the initiative will provide critical support to key institutions, including the University of Belize (UB), the Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF), National Climate Change Office, and national disaster risk management efforts.

This readiness initiative is designed to fortify the institutional capacities of key governmental and non-governmental entities that play a pivotal role in addressing climate change challenges. The project's primary objectives include:

- Strengthening and developing legal frameworks, strategic documents, policies, and plans that align with Belize's national climate priorities.
- Enhancing access to climate change information through a dedicated public awareness campaign strategy for the National Climate Change Office (NCCO) and the Ministry of Economic Transformation (MET).
- Developing an education model at UB focused on climate change and environmental health research to foster a new generation of climate-conscious leaders. This includes a curriculum, as well as a gap and needs assessment to support the creation of interdisciplinary graduate level programmes (Masters and Doctoral) in climate change, climate smart agriculture, renewable energy, and related fields.

The approval of this proposal is a testament to the leadership and commitment of Hon. Dr. Osmond Martinez and CEO Carlos Pol, whose unwavering dedication played a crucial role in securing this important funding for Belize's climate resilience efforts. Their leadership, along with the tireless efforts of the CFU, has ensured that Belize continues to make strides in climate action.

Special recognition is also extended to Hunter Hales, Justino Palomo, Leroy Martinez, and the entire CFU team, who played an instrumental role in developing the project from inception. Their hard work and commitment have laid the foundation for a stronger and more resilient Belize.

The Ministry, on behalf of the Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño and the Government of Belize, extends sincere thanks to the GCF for its continuous support. This project will directly benefit the people and country of Belize, including students interested in coursework and research in climate change topics, and national emergency agencies that will be better equipped to serve the country's needs. (release)

LETTER TO THE Editor

Time for Unity and Self-Reliance

Dear Editor,

The Trump Administration's imposition of a 10% tariff on Belizean goods is a sobering reminder that small nations like ours must never be overly dependent on any single foreign market. While this move may pose challenges, it also presents a clear opportunity for Belize, the wider Caribbean, and Latin America to unify and build economic resilience.

We have faced adversity before. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Belizeans turned inward, supported local farmers, bought Belizean-made products, and reimagined self-sustainability. We can—and must—do it again.

Let this tariff be the push we need to strengthen regional trade, invest in our local industries, and produce more of what we consume. From agriculture to manufacturing, we have the resources and talent as a region to stand on our own feet.

Belize must lead by example—support local businesses, expand our export markets beyond traditional partners, and work closely with CARICOM and Latin America to build a collective response.

Let us not react with fear but with determination. Our strength lies in our unity, and our future depends on how boldly we adapt today.

Sincerely,
Proud Belizean

WORLD BANK GROUP

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

PROJECT MANAGER (1 POSITION)
PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST (1 POSITION)
AND
PROJECT FINANCE OFFICER (1 POSITION)

Institution:	Ministry of Finance
Country:	Belize
Project:	Belize Reliable and Resilient Energy System Project
Duration:	Two (2) years
Duty Station:	Ministry of Finance, Belmopan (In Office)
Deadline:	April 25, 2025; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the World Bank for the implementation of the project-Belize Reliable and Resilient Energy System Project.

The general objective of the positions is to conduct all activities related to project management, finance and procurement in accordance with the provisions of the Project, the World Bank's rules and procedures, and GOB standard public rules and regulations.

The Ministry of Finance now invites eligible individuals to apply for the positions of:

- Project Manager
- Project Finance Officer
- Procurement Specialist

Further details, including the required application template and full terms of reference, can be obtained online at https://mof.gov.bz/procurement-opportunities/ or by scanning the QR code below.

The selection for these contractual positions will be in accordance with the Individual Selection method set out in the Procurement Regulations for Investment Project Financing Borrowers July 2016, revised date: February 2025 and as well as the Government of Belize procurement policies and best practices and is open to all eligible candidates as defined in the policies. The Consultants will be selected based on qualifications including a positive professional reference check.

Qualified Individuals should submit one (1) pdf file in English via e-mail to tjohnston@ceu.mof.gov.bz or three (3) hardcopies of their application to the address below clearly indicating the position being applied for "**Project Manager**, **Project Finance Officer, or Procurement Specialist"**- name of individual.

The Deadline for submission is no later than April 25, 2025, by 10:00 a.m. Local Belize Time. No late submissions will be accepted.

Therese Johnston
Procurement Specialist Assistant
Central Executing Unit
Ministry of Finance
Sir Edney Cain Building
Tel: 501-822-2152/2158
tjohnston@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Ref: **Project Manager** - Your name
Project Finance Officer- Your name
Procurement Specialist- Your name

Scan Here For More Details:

GoB - WBG Advance Country Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development

April 3, 2025The Ministry of Economic Transformation (MET) and the World Bank Group (WBG) completed an in-country mission in preparation for the development of Belize's new Country Partnership Framework (CPF), the institution's engagement strategy within the country for the next ten (10) years.

The CPF aims to enhance resilience and promote inclusive growth through country-level targets aligned with national priority areas, such as the blue economy, education, agriculture, energy, and transportation.

The team met with relevant line ministries and other key national stakeholders to help inform the finalization of the framework. As a living document, the CPF will reflect these insights to help align the WBG's focus areas with national agendas such as PlanBelize and the Medium-Term Development Strategy.

The CPF is expected to strengthen World Bank Group engagement and drive increased investment in the country's development landscape. (release)

Transition of Commissioner of Police Role

Belmopan, Belize April 2, 2025 – The Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries announces that a structured, one-month orderly transition process will commence immediately to facilitate a smooth handover of the responsibilities of the Commissioner of Police.

At the conclusion of this transition period, Dr. Anthony R. Rosado will officially assume the role of Commissioner of Police (Compol).

This transition reflects the Ministry's commitment to stability, professionalism, and continuity within the leadership of the Belize Police Department. It ensures that institutional knowledge is preserved, operational priorities remain uninterrupted, and the safety and security of the Belizean people continue to be safeguarded during the change in leadership.

As part of this transition period, an official handing-over ceremony will be held to mark the formal change of command. Additional details regarding the ceremony will be shared in due course.

The Ministry takes this opportunity to extend its deepest appreciation and well wishes to the outgoing Commissioner of Police, Mr. Chester Williams. His years of dedicated service, leadership, and commitment to public safety have left a lasting impact on the Belize Police Department and the nation. We thank him for his contributions and wish him continued success in all future endeavors.

We also call on all stakeholders, including members of the Police Department and the general public, to support this transition as we work collaboratively to strengthen citizen security and enhance public trust in law enforcement. (release)

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WORLD BANK GROUP

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST (1 POSITION)
AND
PROJECT FINANCE OFFICER (1 POSITION)

Institution:	Ministry of Finance
Country:	Belize
Project:	Belize Blue Cities and Beyond
Duration:	Two (2) years
Duty Station:	Ministry of Finance, Belmopan (In Office)
Deadline:	April 30, 2025; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the World Bank for the implementation of the project-Belize Blue Cities and Beyond.

The general objective of the positions is to conduct all activities related to finance and procurement in accordance with the provisions of the Project, the World Bank's rules and procedures, and GOB standard public rules and regulations.

The Ministry of Finance now invites eligible individuals to apply for the positions of:

- Project Finance Officer
- Procurement Specialist

Further details, including the required application template and full terms of reference, can be obtained online at https://mof.gov.bz/procurement-opportunities/ or by scanning the QR code below.

The selection for these contractual positions will be in accordance with the Individual Selection method set out in the Procurement Regulations for Investment Project Financing Borrowers July 2016, revised date: February 2025 and as well as the Government of Belize procurement policies and best practices and is open to all eligible candidates as defined in the policies. The Consultants will be selected based on qualifications including a positive professional reference check.

Qualified Individuals should submit one (1) pdf file in English via e-mail to tjohnston@ceu.mof.gov.bz or three (3) hardcopies of their application to the address below clearly indicating the position being applied for "**Project Finance Officer or Procurement Specialist"**- name of individual.

The Deadline for submission is no later than April 30, 2025, by 10:00 a.m. Local Belize Time. No late submissions will be accepted.

Therese Johnston
Procurement Specialist Assistant
Central Executing Unit
Ministry of Finance
Sir Edney Cain Building
Tel: 501-822-2152/2158
tjohnston@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Scan Here For More Details:

Ref:
Project Finance Officer- Your name
Procurement Specialist- Your name

DR Management & Climate Change Engagement Workshop in San Pedro Town & Dangriga

April 9, 2025- The Ministry of Blue Economy and Marine Conservation, The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), under the project "Community Engagement of the Coastal Zone and Fisheries Sector of Belize through CCA and DRM Capacity Building," are supporting the increase of resilience for the coastal zone and fisheries sector through improved management, stakeholder livelihoods, disaster risk management, and awareness.

This Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Engagement Workshop will assist in:

-The creation of a Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Plan for San Pedro Town, Ambergris Caye and Dangriga.

-A Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Community Engagement Strategy, Action Plan, and MEL Framework for both municipalities.

Which shall:

-Increase the capacity of national actors and community members on climate change, climate adaptation, and disaster risk management.

-Build the capacity and response capabilities of national actors in disaster risk management (DRM) and of community members in coastal communities.

-Build the capacity of fisherfolk in DRM and climate change-resilient livelihoods. (release)

Microinsurance Regulations Introduced

Belmopan, Belize. April 4, 2025: In a move towards modernizing and enhancing financial protection, Belize introduced the Microinsurance Regulations to complement the Insurance Act introduced in 2023.

With the introduction of these Regulations, the insurance sector is now poised to develop microinsurance products to bridge the financial protection gap and offer vital coverage to the low-income productive sector.

Some key highlights of the Regulations include:

- The characteristics of microinsurance allow for simplicity in the policy language while at the same time enhancing the key features of coverage and price.
- Rules for the conduct of business include provision for product development, pre- contractual sharing of information, and servicing of the policy and procedures for dealing with claims and complaints.
- New channels of distribution of insurance policies can be used for microinsurance products, allowing easy access for persons living in remote areas of the country.

These Regulations were developed within the World Bank's Risk Finance Umbrella (RFU) Program, supported by the Swiss Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).

A copy of the Regulations can be obtained at the website of the Office of the Supervisor of Insurance and Private Pensions at https://osipp.gov.bz.(Release)

Invitation for Bids

REQUEST FOR BIDS

Belize
Water Supply & Modernization Program
5754/OC-BL
Supply and Installation of Water Disinfection Equipment for BWS Network
BL-L1043-P00001

1. The *Belize Water Services Limited has received financing* from the Inter-American Development Bank toward the cost of *Water Supply & Modernization Program* and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the Contract for *Supply and Installation of Water Disinfection Equipment for BWS Network.*
2. *Belize Water Services Limited* now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for *Purchase and Installation of Water Disinfection Equipment.*
3. The Request for Bids will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's Policies for the Procurement of Works and Goods financed by the Inter-American Development Bank, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Policies.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from *Belize Water Services Limited, Ms. Jahnina Reyes, Procurement Specialist, rce@bwsl.com.bz;* and inspect the bidding document at the address given below from *8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Belize local time.*
5. Qualifications requirements include *Goods must meet technical specifications, financials, power of attorney and other requirements.* A margin of preference for certain goods manufactured domestically *"shall not",* be applied. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in *English* may be requested by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before *2:00 p.m. Belize local time on May 2nd, 2025.* Electronic bidding *will not* be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person or on-line at the address below at *2:15 p.m. Belize local time on May 2nd, 2025*. All bids must be accompanied by a *"Bid Security"* of *10% of bid price per lot* or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.
8. The address(es) referred to above is(are):

Ms. Jahnina Reyes,
Procurement Specialist,
Belize Water Services Limited,
7 Central American Boulevard,
Belize City, Belize C.A.
+501-222-4757

GOB and CDB Strengthen Partnership
Country Project Portfolio Review

A team from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) concluded a four-day mission to Belize from April 1-4, 2025, aimed at reviewing and advancing the portfolio of projects the Bank supports across the country. The visit focused on strengthening collaboration with the Government of Belize and accelerating the implementation of key development initiatives designed to uplift Belizean communities.

The country review offered a platform for open dialogue between government officials, CDB representatives, and project partners. The discussions, held in both Belmopan and Belize City, addressed critical development issues including infrastructure resilience, private sector expansion, social investment, and energy security.

CDB's Acting Director of Projects, Mr. L. O'Reilly Lewis, emphasized the importance of the exercise, stating, "This mission allowed us to work closely with Belize's leadership to ensure that our projects are creating real value for the people of Belize. We are committed to delivering projects that not only meet infrastructure needs, but also foster climate resilience and promote inclusive economic growth."

The review officially opened on April 1 with strategic discussions on Belize's infrastructure plans, current progress, and existing challenges across sectors such as transportation, education, water and sanitation, energy, and agriculture. These discussions focused on ensuring that projects deliver long-term benefits to local communities while supporting the country's development goals.

Financial Secretary, Mr. Joseph Waight, was present for the opening session and reiterated the Government's commitment to maintaining strong partnerships with development agencies, ensuring that projects are effectively executed for the benefit of the Belizean people.

A key highlight of the CDB mission was the official opening of a new school in Gales Point, built under the stewardship of the Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF). This initiative forms part of ongoing efforts to enhance educational infrastructure in rural areas. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Mrs. Narda Garcia, Chief Executive Officer in the Office of the Prime Minister, who commended the project as a significant investment in the future of Belize's youth and a testament to the Government's commitment to education and community development.

On April 3, the delegation visited several project sites to assess progress firsthand, engaging with stakeholders and local communities. The mission wrapped up on April 4 in Belize City with discussions centered on strengthening Belize's energy sector and improving access to reliable and sustainable electricity for all citizens. The final meeting outlined the next steps and action plans to improve project delivery.

Mr. Carlos Pol, Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of Economic Transformation, highlighted the value of the mission, "This review process is an essential part of ensuring our development projects are impactful and aligned with national priorities. The collaboration with CDB continues to play a crucial role in building a stronger, more resilient Belize."

The mission reinforced the long-standing partnership between the Government of Belize and the Caribbean Development Bank, demonstrating a shared commitment to improving lives and supporting sustainable development across the nation.

MET Announces Completion of IDB/IFAD Mission

The Ministry of Economic Transformation (MET) is pleased to announce the successful completion of a joint Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in-country mission for the "Program for Sustainable and Inclusive Belize." The mission took place from March 31 to April 4, 2025, and aimed to solidify plans for agricultural development that prioritize sustainability and inclusivity.

During the mission, representatives from MET, IDB, and IFAD engaged in comprehensive discussions to contextualize key components vital to enhancing the agricultural sector in Belize.

Areas of focus included direct support for smallholder farmers, producer groups, and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), as well as the establishment of enabling environments, the promotion of gender equality, and strategies, aimed at empowering youth by improving their access to productive resources.

The mission involved collaboration with critical ministries, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security, and Enterprise (MAFSE), and the Central Executing Unit within the Ministry of Finance. It also included site visits to key locations in San Antonio, Cayo District; Hope Creek Village; and Santa Cruz Village in Stann Creek District, to assess local needs and opportunities for development.

The mission marks a pivotal step toward aligning the objectives of Plan Belize and the Medium-Term Development Strategy with Belize's broader economic transformation goals.

The MET and its development partners remain committed to fostering sustainable practices that improve livelihoods and promote social equity within Belize's agricultural landscape. (release)

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PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

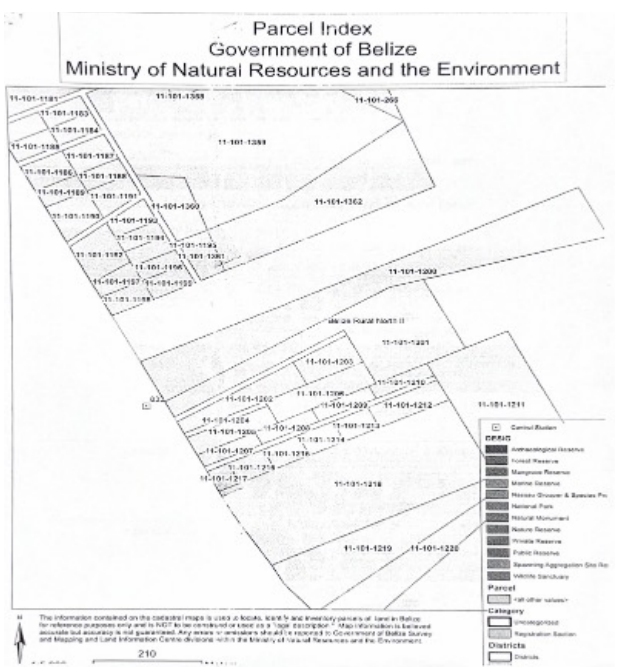
BY ORDER OF THE CHARGEE HOLY REDEEMER CREDIT UNION LIMITED, a Licensed Public Auctioneer will sell on site the following property at the time as listed.

At Parcel 1201 Biscayne Village, Belize District on Friday, April 25, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

SCHEDULE

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land comprising 5.323 Hectare(s) being Parcel 1201, Block 11 in the Belize Rural North II Registration Section situate in the Biscayne Village, Belize District, Belize TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold property of **JING FENG LEE**.

DATED this 7th day of April 2025



All sales are strictly cash and deemed final. For more information contact:

HOLY REDEEMER CREDIT UNION LIMITED
1 HYDE'S LANE, BELIZE CITY, BELIZE
Phone: (501) 280-5644
Fax: (501) 223-0738
E-mail: foreclosures@hrcubelize.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/hrcuforeclosure/

Regional Agricultural Meeting

Belize Takes Over CIRSA Presidency

The 72nd Ordinary Meeting of the Comité Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (CIRSA) began today at the Sunset Caribe Conference Hall in San Pedro, Belize. This two-day event, from April 3-4, brings together Agriculture Ministers and Secretaries from across the region to discuss key issues related to agricultural health and food security.

The meeting opened with welcoming remarks from Francisco Javier Calderón Elizalde, General Director of Administration and Information Technology of Servicio Nacional de Sanidad, Inocuidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria (SENASICA), followed by the official transfer of the CIRSA presidency to Belize. Hon. José Abelardo Mai, Minister of Agriculture, Food Security & Enterprise, and the newly appointed CIRSA President, emphasized the country's commitment to working closely with regional partners to improve agricultural health and food security. An award was presented to recognize the outgoing president's leadership and to show appreciation for their contributions.

Hon. Mai highlighted the importance of regional collaboration in addressing agricultural challenges in his opening remarks, stating, "Teamwork is the key to the success of any development effort, and the agricultural sector is no exception. Through regional cooperation and the integration of our knowledge and experiences, we can find innovative and effective solutions to improve productivity, sustainability, and the resilience of our agricultural economies."

Hon. Mai also underscored the ongoing efforts to combat the Screwworm Infestation in Livestock, describing it as one of the most destructive pests affecting the region's livestock industry. He acknowledged the initiatives that have assisted in mitigating its impact, which involved collaborative efforts between regional countries and international organizations, including OIRSA, USDA, and IICA.

Additionally, Hon. Mai highlighted Belize's pioneering agricultural research efforts, particularly in the banana industry. With the support of OIRSA and Taiwan ICDF, Belize has made significant progress in agricultural research, such as evaluating the Formosana banana variety, which is resistant to Fusarium Tropical Race 4. He also emphasized Belize's commitment to sustainable pest control through biological methods. The Belmopan insectary produced 367,235 specimens of Anagyrus kamali to combat the pink mealybug and other beneficial insects that reduce dependence on chemical pesticides and promote biodiversity.

The first day of the meeting featured several key presentations and discussions, including the 2024 CIRSA Presidency Report, a report from the OIRSA Executive Directorate, and the 2024 Administrative and Financial Report of OIRSA. Additionally, a presentation was given on the Regional Strategy for Screwworm Infestation in Livestock.

Later in the day, discussions focused on the external audit report for OIRSA's headquarters, national representations, and employee protection system for 2023, along with audits of regional projects and local agreements. The selection process for external audit firms for 2024 and the selection of a company to implement a new Administrative-Financial Management System (ERP) for OIRSA were also addressed. The meeting will also include the selection of the new Director of Administration and Finance for OIRSA.

The second day of the meeting will conclude with the reading and signing of the official meeting minutes, finalizing the discussions and decisions made during this important regional gathering. (release)

PEN-FRIENDS WANTED:

Switzerland friend interested in Belize, looking for Belizean pen-friends. Please write in English or German to the following address:

Vitus Castelberg
Aspermonststr 19
CH-7000 CHUR
Switzerland (Europe)

IDB

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

Data Architect

Institution:	Ministry of Finance
Country:	Belize
Project:	Strengthening Public Expenditure Management Program – SPEM
Process ID:	BL-L1040 – P00102
Duration:	Two (2) years
Duty Station:	CITO, Belmopan (Hybrid will be considered)
Deadline:	**May 6, 2025**; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the implementation of the Project – The Strengthening Public Expenditure Management Program – SPEM (5353/OC-BL-L1038). The general objective is to promote the fiscal sustainability of Belize. The specific objective is to increase the efficiency of public resources by strengthening public financial management. The general objective of the program is to promote Belize´s foreign direct investment and trade performance.

The program is comprised of a single component with four subcomponents. The consultancy is aligned to subcomponent three (3), Technological Infrastructure, to promote a more sustainable technological infrastructure enabling processes to be more reliable and faster.

The Ministry of Finance invites eligible individuals to apply for the position of **"Data Architect"** within the Central Information Technology Office.

Further details, including the required application template and full Terms of Reference, can be obtained online at https://mof.gov.bz/procurement-opportunities/ or by scanning the QR Code below. Interested individuals must provide information demonstrating that they have met the required qualifications and possess relevant experience to perform the Services.

The selection for this contractual position will be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2350-15 and the Government of Belize policies and best practices and is open to all eligible candidates as defined in the policies. The Consultants will be selected based on qualifications including a positive professional reference check.

Qualified individuals should submit one (1) pdf file in English, using the required template, via e-mail to tjoseph@ceu.mof.gov.bz or three (3) hardcopies of their application to the address below clearly indicating "**Data Architect (BL-L1038)"**- name of consultant.

The deadline for submission is no later than **May 6, 2025, by 10:00 a.m**. **(Local Belize Time).** No late submissions will be accepted.

Trudy Joseph
Procurement Specialist
Central Executing Unit
Ministry of Finance
Sir Edney Cain Building
Tel: 501-822-2152/2158
tjoseph@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Scan Here For More Details:

Ref: **Data Architect (BL-L1038)** - Your name

San Pedro Support for Autism Awareness

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

PUBLICAUCTIONSALES: PROPERTIES & VEHICLES

Countrywide

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo andChristiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belize-propertyauctions.com the following properties and vehicles. Salescurrently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties and vehicles are sold.

1. Parcel No. 900 Consejo, Corozal District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Consejo	1	900
The freehold property of Mr. Narciso Rodriguez.		

2. Parcel No. 32/1 Chan Pine Ridge Village, Orange Walk District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Chan Pine Ridge	4	32/1
The leasehold property of Mr. German Tzul.		

3. Parcel No. 3404 Trail Farm Village, Orange Walk District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Ann Gabourel	4	3404
The freehold property of Mr. Enop Martinez.		

4. Parcel No. 645 Calcutta Village, Corozal District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Carolina/Calcutta Village	1	645
The freehold property of Mr. Nigel Sanker and Ms. Matilda Shal.		

5. Parcel No. 129 Cahal Pech Hill Road, San Ignacio, Cayo District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Ignacio South	2	129
Freehold Property		

6. Parcel No. 3654 Scalop Avenue (off Coney Drive, Near Body 2000), Belize City, Belize District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Ignacio	23	2364/1
The leasehold property of Mr. Antonio Coyoc.		

7. Parcel No. 4138 Trial Farm Village, Orange Walk District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Ann Gabourel	4	4138
The freehold property of Mr. Elmer Jason Dominguez.		

8.Lot No. 162 Pomona Village, Stann Creek District:

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land situated in Pomona Village, Stann Creek District. The freehold property of Mr. Manuel Esquivel.

9.Lot No. 14 Bladen Street Belmopan City, Cayo District:

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land situated in the City of Belmopan, Cayo District. The freehold property of Ms. Ruby Pascascio and Jesse Garcia

10. Parcel No. 3041 Caribbean Shores, Belize City , Belize District.

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Caribbean Shores	16	3041
The freehold property of Ms. Vanessa Sirias.		

VEHICLES:

2018 Chevy Equinox

2008 Ford Escape

2008 Ford Escape

2010 Dodge Journey

2010 Mercedes- Benz

2019 Nissan Rogue

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CONSULTING SERVICES

Inter-American Development Bank

Country: Belize
Project: Strengthening of Tax Administration Project (STAP)
Loan No.: 4839/OC-BL
Institution: Ministry of Finance
Abstract: Consulting Services
Deadline: April 28, 2025, at 4 p.m. (Belize local time)

The Government of Belize has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), toward the cost of the Strengthening of Tax Administration Project (STAP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") for a Consulting Firm to Design, Implement, and Execute a Countrywide Public Awareness and Marketing Campaign for Electronic Tax Document (ETD) before, during and after the rollout of the ETD. Specific objectives include the following:

1. *Design and implement a Public Awareness and Marketing Campaign*
2. *Increase Progressive Public Awareness of the ETD System*
3. *Encourage Voluntary Taxpayer Compliance*
4. *Foster Adoption and Usage of E-Invoicing services*
5. *Collaborating with ETD Consultant*

The Belize Tax Department under the Ministry of Finance now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide the following information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience in conducting large communication activities at a national and local level:

i. The firm must have a minimum of five (5) years experiences in any of the following areas: ***Development of change management campaigns,** ***Advertisement campaigns,** ***Graphic Design,** Educational campaigns, Communication planning, Strategic communication, Communications marketing, Digital content creation.
ii. Conducted at least two PR campaigns of similar type in the last 5 years (name of the assignment, description, duration, reference).
iii. Experience in organizing events (workshops, training, conferences targeting different groups: citizens, national and local public administration, mass media NGOs etc).

From the expressions of interest received, the Executing Agency will prepare a short list comprising not fewer than five (5) and not more than eight (8) eligible firms.
Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2350-15 and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the policies.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture to enhance their qualifications. For the purpose of establishing the short list, the nationality of a firm is that of the country in which it is legally incorporated or constituted and in the case of Joint Venture, the nationality of the firm appointed to represent it.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection based on the Consultant's Qualification (QCS) method set out in the Consultant Policies.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 8:00 to 5:00 (Monday – Thursday), and 8:00 to 4:30 (Friday).

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form before or on Monday, April 28, 2025 at 4: p.m. by email address to Michelle. Longsworth@bts.gov.bz, and david.duncan@mof.gov.bz marked **STAP- Public Awareness Campaign (ETD)** in the subject header, or submit hardcopy to the following address:

Director General
Belize Tax Service Department
Strengthening of Tax Administration Project
Eleanor Hall Building
Chetumal Boulevard, Belize City
Tel: 501-222-4956

For clarifications kindly contact:

Acting Project Coordinator
Project Executing Unit
Strengthening of Tax Administration Project
Eleanor Hall Building
Chetumal Boulevard, Belize City
Tel: 501-222-4956 (ext-421)/E-mail: David.Duncan@mof.gov.bz

Resilient Bold Belize
WWF GEF Blue and Green Islands IP Child Project

Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit

TERMS OF REFERENCE: PROJECT MANAGER

Background

As part of the Blue and Green Islands GEF8 Integrated program, the Resilient Bold Belize project aims to secure the long-term conservation and resilience of Belize´s marine and coastal ecosystems, promoting nature-based livelihoods and the wellbeing of Belizeans.

The Belize project will catalyze a Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) initiative, a major private-public partnership, led by the Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit within the Office of Prime Minister. The PFP will integrate the value of nature into the tourism and fisheries sectors, strengthen policy coherence, institutional capacity for gender inclusive conservation planning, and strengthen capacities for financial planning and domestic resource mobilization. The proposed PFP approach will foster impactful outcomes resulting in improved management coastal PAs, MPAs, plus mangrove and other coastal ecosystems outside of the formal PA system, and improvement of targeted communities' livelihoods

The Project Manager will be appointed by the Project Executing Agency and funded entirely from the Project. The PM will be responsible for the overall management of the Project, including the mobilization of all project inputs, supervision over project staff, consultants and sub-contractors. The PM will report to the Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit Director for all of the Project's substantive and administrative issues. From the strategic point of view of the Project, the PM will report on a periodic basis to the Project Steering Committee, Generally, the PM will support the BBFP who will be responsible for meeting executing agency obligations under the Project. The PM will perform a liaison role with the government, CSOs and project partners, and maintain close collaboration with other donor agencies providing co-financing. 100% time will be dedicated to managing and executing the project, with time dedicated to the technical execution of project Components 1 and 3.

Responsibilities

Project Management:

•Plan the activities of the project and monitor progress against the approved workplan.

• Supervise and Coordinate the production of project outputs, as per the project document in a timely and high quality fashion

• Coordinate the recruitment and selection of project personnel, consultants and sub-contracts, including drafting terms of reference and work specifications and overseeing all contractors' work.

• Manage requests for the provision and commitment of financial resources through direct payments, or reimbursement.

• Prepare, revise and submit project work and financial plans, as required by Project Steering Committee.

• Monitor financial resources and accounting to ensure accuracy and reliability of financial reports, submitted on a quarterly basis.

• Manage and monitor the project risks initially identified and submit new risks to the Project Steering Committee for consideration and decision on possible actions if required; update the status of these risks by maintaining the project risks log.

• Liaise with BBFP and the Project Steering Committee, relevant government agencies, and all project partners, including donor organizations and CSOs for effective coordination of all project activities.

• Facilitate administrative support to subcontractors and training activities supported by the Project.

• Oversee and ensure timely submission of the Inception Report, Project Implementation Report, technical reports, quarterly financial reports, and other reports as may be required by the WWF, GEF and other oversight agencies.

• Disseminate project reports and respond to queries from concerned stakeholders.

• Oversee the exchange and sharing of experiences and lessons learned with other relevant development projects nationally and internationally.

• Encourage staff, partners and consultants to actively include women in the project, including the budgeting, staff and consultant hiring, subcontracting, purchasing, formal community governance and advocacy, outreach to social organizations, training, participation in meetings; and access to program benefits.

• Day-to-day management, monitoring and evaluation of project activities and results as outlined in the ProDoc, Grant Agreement, and Annual Work Plan and Budget to achieve the project objective and targets in the Results Framework

• Hold monthly virtual meetings with the partners involved in each outcome.

• Manage the workflow for the Project Steering Committee (PSC)

• In collaboration with all project sub-grantees and partners, develop the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) for each project year, for approval by the PSC and no-objection from the WWF GEF Agency

• Provide high level oversight and monitoring of procurement and expenditure in line with the AWPB

• Review progress of work plan and monitoring plan

• Lead planning and organization for reflection workshop to identify lessons learned and propose potential changes for adaptive management to ensure project results and indicator targets are reached

• Responsible for organization of Kick-Off workshop and other project-level workshops/ meetings

• Manage the design of a project website, and its ongoing maintenance and updates

• Represent the project and provide support for project supervisions and internal and external reviews/evaluations

• Supervise and coordinate the work of all project staff, consultants and sub-contractors ensuring timing ang quality of outputs;

- o MEK Officer
- o Financial Assistant
- o Safeguards and Gender Officer
- o any directly recruited staff or consultants

• Prepare TORs to recruit consultants, staff and sub-contracts in consultation with and for no-objection from WWF GEF Agency

• Formulate semi-annual Project Progress Reports and ensure timely delivery to the WWF GEF Agency

• Oversee the preparation and disbursement of sub-grants

• Oversee development of quarterly financial reports and ensure timely delivery to the WWF GEF Agency

• Ensure co-finance reporting on a yearly basis

• Provide quality assurance for project activities, including in sub-grants

• Review reports and other products from consultants, staff, and sub-grantees, and ensure quality

• Ensure implementation in line with the GEF and WWF standards and policies

Partnerships:

• Coordinate with co-financing partners and liaise with project partners to ensure co-financing commitments are realized

• Ensure smooth coordination and communication among all project partners, and with the Program partners

• Manage stakeholder engagement throughout the project duration

• Represent the project, as needed, at various meetings and workshops

• Identifies, coordinates and expedites the communication of information and issues both interdepartmentally and intra departmentally, as well as externally with subrecipients, the Project Steering Committee, the WWF GEF Agency and independent evaluators as necessary.

Technical Delivery of Project Components:

• *Component 1 will create the conditions for initiating the implementation of the PFP for the long term effective management of marine and coastal PAs and priority ecosystems, co-developed and agreed by Government and non-government stakeholders.*

Within this component, The project manager will:

o Aid in implementing an action plan for capacity building for executing partners through the delivery of workshops and trainings

o Deliver the action plan to help executing partners build absorptive capacity

• *Component 3 will focus on Strengthened communications, coordination and knowledge management at national and global levels in alignment with the Blue and Green Islands Integrated Program.*

Within this component, The project manager will:

o Participate in Blue and Green Islands Integrated Program events such as annual BGI IP Meetings, regional nodes, south-to-south exchanges as needed

o Represent the Belize Child project at external facing workshops and events

o Keep abreast of BGI IP news and engagements

Qualifications and Requirements

Required Skills and Expertise

• A master's degree in project management, Business Administration or any other natural resource management, environmental conservation, or any other related field.

• At least five years of demonstrable project management experience.

• At least five years of experience working in the natural resources/ environmental field.

• At least five years of experience working with Government Ministries, National Institutions that are concerned with natural resource and/ or environmental management.

Competencies

• Strong leadership, managerial and coordination skills, with a demonstrated ability to effectively coordinate the implementation of large multi-stakeholder projects, including financial and technical aspects.

• Ability to effectively manage technical and administrative teams, work with a wide range of stakeholders across various sectors and at all levels, to develop durable partnerships with collaborating agencies.

• Ability to administer budgets, train and work effectively with counterpart staff at all levels and with all groups involved in the projects

• Ability to coordinate and supervise multiple Project staff and consultants in their implementation of technical activities in partnership with a variety of subnational stakeholder groups, including community and government.

• Strong communication skills, especially in timely and accurate response to emails.

• Working experiences/familiarity with the Government of Belize process and procedures is an asset.

• Strong leadership, management, and interpersonal skills with proven ability to work effectively within a multidisciplinary team, motivate quality work and promote team building.

• Proven ability to manage human resources within a project context and to follow the rules of consultative and adaptive management.

• Experience in delivering technical and financial reporting to donor agencies on projects

• Technical experience and knowledge in the thematic area of the project

• Experience with GEF Projects and GEF knowledge an advantage

• Fluency in written and spoken English is indispensable; Spanish would be an additional asset.

• Ability and willingness to undertake extensive local travel.

• Sound computer skills including Microsoft Office, QuickBooks, and other relevant applications.

Supervision

The Project Manager will report directly to the Director of the BBFP.

Duty Station: Belize City

Payment Arrangements- The salary of the contract commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Estimated Starting Date and Duration

Start date will be effective at contract signature. A contract will be renewed biannually based on an assessment of performance and requires full-time commitment.

Those interested in filling the vacancy for the position of Project Manager should send an Expression of Interest and CV along with three references to email: TO.bbfpunit@opm.gov.bz or printed to the following address by **Friday, 11th April 2025 no later than 4:00 p.m.**

3rd Floor, Eleanor Hall Building
Lake Independence Boulevard
Belize City

Applications will be reviewed by a Selection Committee. Those shortlisted will be invited to an interview with the Committee. Due diligence will be done to validate the information included in the CV or the information provided during the interviews.

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